

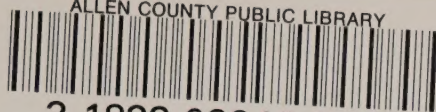
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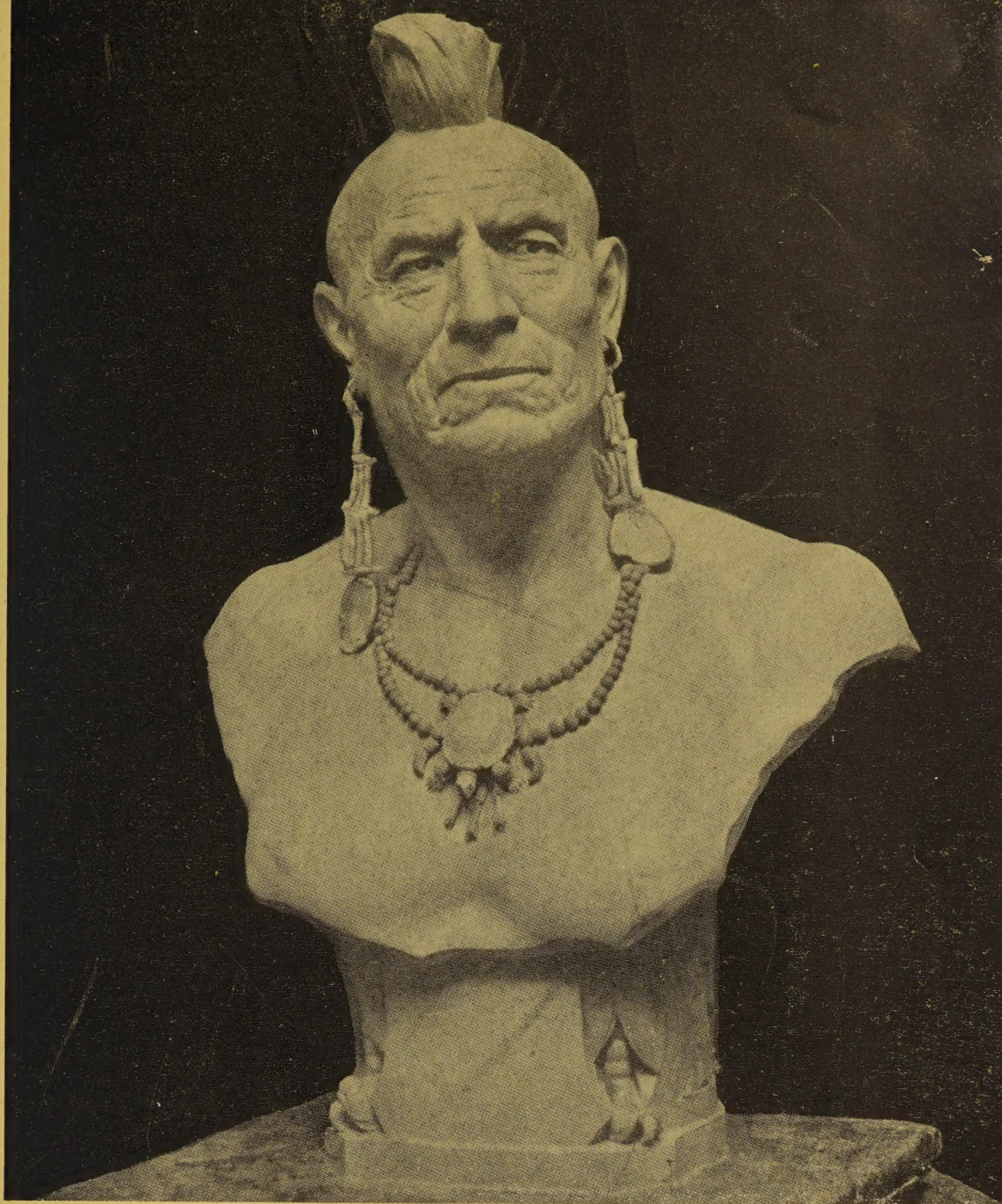
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ORATAM
Senior Sagamore and Sachem
of the Hackensack Indians

ORATAM

This great Bergen County native was born in 1577 on the Overpeck (Awapaugh) Creek. He was supposed to have died in 1666, the year Governor Philip Cartaret sent Captain Treat to Hackensack to escort the chief to Newark where a deed to the present site of the city had been prepared for his signature. His extreme age prevented his making the trip. He probably died in August 1669, when *Perewyn*, called *Chief Hans* by the Dutch, became Sachem of the Hackensack, Tappan and Staten Island Indians.

Oratam, during his span of life, saw the first white settlers when they landed on the island of Manhattan and lived to see a lasting peace between the natives and the white settlers.

In the background, during all the trying years, trusted and respected by the governors of New Amsterdam and their English successors, stood the mighty Oratam.

THREE HUNDRED YEARS

The Story of the Hackensack Valley, its Settlement and Growth

by FRANCIS C. KOEHLER *c*

President Bergen County Historical Society

With Introduction by DONALD G. BORG

Editor Bergen Evening Record

Francis
C. Koehler

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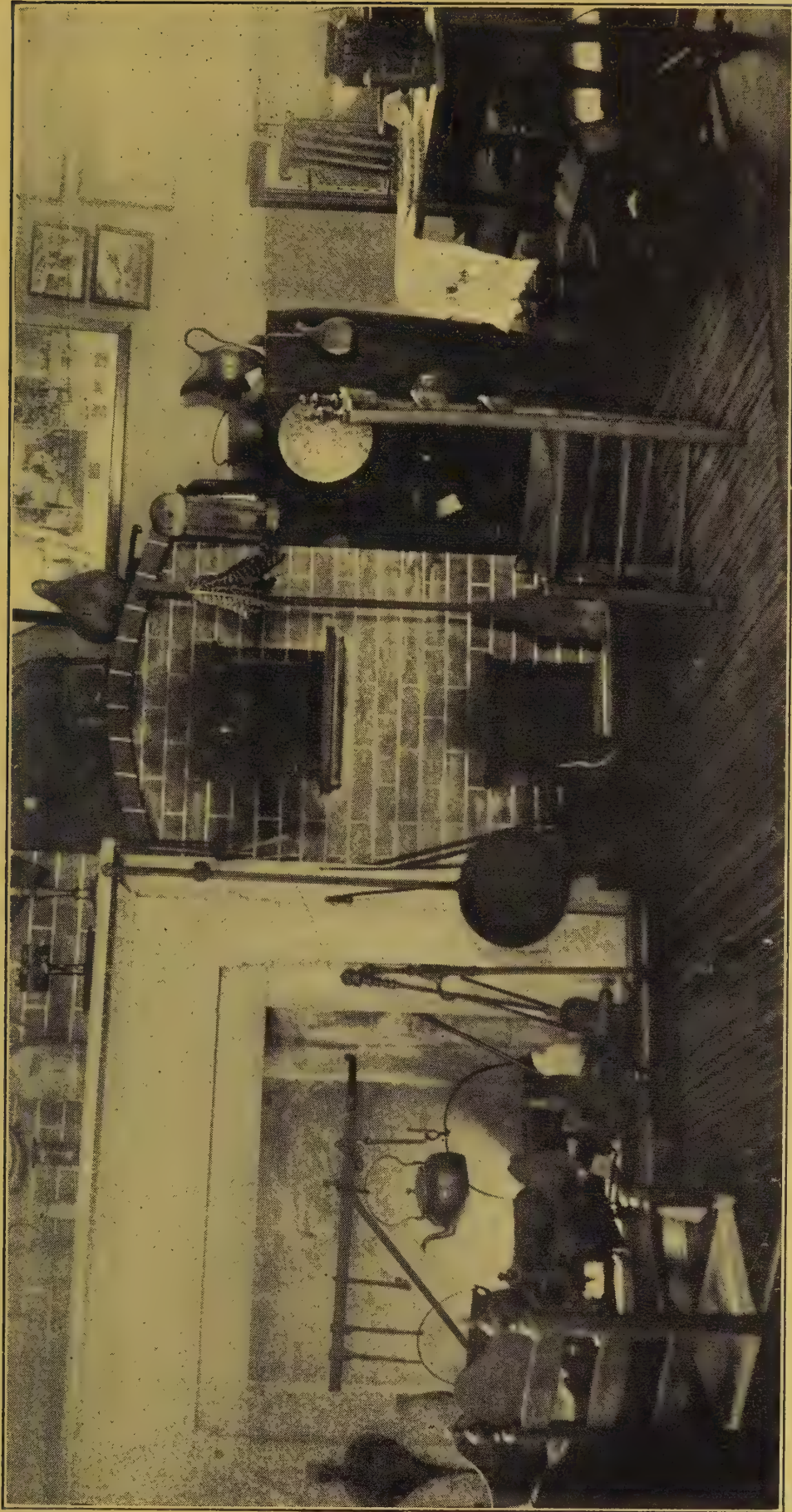
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Typical Colonial Kitchen

INTRODUCTION

Francis C. Koehler may be accurately though perhaps not adequately described as an amateur historian in the nice meaning of the term: devoted interest motivates his diligent scholarship and sympathetic presentation. His present volume should illuminate many time-blurred pages in the rich history of Colonial Bergen County.

Mr. Koehler's painstaking research has derived from new sources much original material concerning the origin of the County's name, and he has revealed early personal records whose vividness virtually cancels the passage of three centuries. For the scholar and the casual reader alike he has restored warm flesh to the bare bones of fact, and through his eyes they may see Bergen County living then as now.

Donald G. Borg

Hackensack, N.J.
January 15, 1940



“And it is not the least debt we owe unto history, that it hath made us acquainted with our dead ancestors and out of the depth and darkness delivered us their memory and fame.”

Sir Walter Raleigh



Statue of General ENOCH POOR
Erected on the *Green*, Hackensack,
by the Sons of the American
Revolution

ENOCH POOR

Brigadier Enoch Poor was one of the able generals of the Continental Army.

When the Marquis de Lafayette was made a major-general, his troops, composed largely of light infantry, some light horse and a park of artillery, was the best armed, best equipped and best disciplined division of the Continental Army.

Lafayette clothed and armed most of the men and officers at his own expense. Each soldier wore a helmet of hard leather with a crest of hair. In 1780 black and red feathers were worn by the light infantry.

This division consisted of two brigades, one under General Hand and the other under General Poor. The Light Horse was commanded by Light Horse Harry Lee.

In September 1780, when General Headquarters were in "*Steenraapie*" (North Hackensack) Lafayette's Division was in camp in *Kinderkamack* on the broad plateau behind the estate of the late Elmer Blauvelt and John Lozier.

The road leading up the hill to the camp which commands a view of the surrounding country is called *Soldier Hill Road*.

Here on September 8th, 1780, General Poor died. The attending Surgeon Thacher says of a putrid fever --a rumor, never confirmed, of a wound received in a duel with Major John Porter of Massachussets.

FOREWORD

The history of Bergen County is closely interwoven with the settlement of the New Netherland from the date of the purchase of the island of Manhattan by the Dutch West India Company thru its representative, Peter Minuet.

The administration of the affairs of the Dutch West India Company by its four successive Director-Generals or Governors: Minuet, Van Twiller, Kieft and Stuyvesant, brings to light many events which disclose the importance of the plantations of New Amsterdam, lying west of the Hudson River, which ultimately became Bergen County.

Accordingly the short sketches of these four governors form an introduction to the narrative which follows.







Mansion House 1751
THE GREEN

Poor Monument First Reformed Church 1696
HACKENSACK, NEW JERSEY

THE GREEN, HACKENSACK, NEW JERSEY

In 1696 Captain John Berry gave two and three quarter acres to the inhabitants of Hackensack; which was called the *Green*. The gift was inspired by the need of the Dutch Reformed congregation of a church, which was erected in the same year by William Day and John Stage.

Facing the *Green* stands the *Mansion House* erected by Peter Zabriskie in 1751. General Washington was quartered here from November 14th to the 21st, when the memorable *Retreat across the Jerseys* began, ending in the great victory at Trenton on Christmas night, which was the turning point of the war.

The first County court facing the *Green* was erected in 1714. In 1733 a larger building was erected. This building was destroyed on March 23, 1780, when some 400 British and Hessian soldiers commanded by Lieut.-Col. McPherson passed thru Hackensack at 3 o'clock in the morning on their way to attack the Paramus Camp. The County-Seat was then moved to Oakland for the duration of the war.

Between the Mansion House and the Church stands the statue of Brigadier General Enoch Poor, within a few feet of where his remains are interred.

PETER MINUET



ON the fourth day of May, 1626, as the hills of Staten Island were casting long shadows over New York Bay, the *Sea Mew*, commanded by Captain Adriaen Joris, arrived off the Battery. A distinguished passenger was taken ashore in a row-boat—it was Peter Minuet, the first official governor of New Netherland. His first official act was to make a survey of the island to determine its area, and his engineer, Kryn Frederick, reported that it had an estimated area of 11,000 morgens or 22,000 acres. On May 6th he had many boxes brought ashore from the *Sea Mew*, which were opened and placed on exhibition on the beach which is now Battery Park. Gaudy strings of beads, bright buttons and many trinkets met the fascinated gaze of the natives who gathered around the treasure, which had cost the Dutch West India Company sixty guilders, or twenty four American dollars. Stoic Sachems drew closer and thru an interpreter were informed that the white Chief would exchange this strange *wampum*, of which there was sufficient to decorate every native on the island, for the island itself. Inasmuch as nothing was said about the natives' leaving the island, the offer was too good to be true, and the Sachems accepted it with alacrity.

Peter Minuet wasted no time in organizing his government. A strong hard-bitten man, who had seen years of service in the East and West Indies, rough and competent, strong-willed but just, he soon had his council selected as well as his peace-officer and custom officer. His Engineer Frederick promptly started the erection of a block-house commanding a view of the bay, which was followed by the erection of a warehouse of stone with a wharf to which vessels could be warped. A horse-mill followed,

and in the upper floor provision was made for religious services. Around the whole a red-cedar stockade was constructed and the enclosure became known as Fort Amsterdam. The total population of the island numbered less than two hundred colonists, including men, women and children who were living in a primitive state, and the Director General had small dwellings erected within the stockade for protection against any uprising of the natives. On June 7, 1629, the States-General ratified the Charter of Privileges and Exemptions passed by the West India Company, under which the members of the company were permitted to obtain grants of land in the New Netherland. Its ratification brought vessels loaded with colonists and cattle for the colonies of Van Rensselaer near Albany, Godyn and Blomaert on the Delaware, and of Michael Pauw at Pavonia on the Jersey side of the Hudson.

As the Dutch merchants were a source of worry to England in every market of the old world, so these Dutch colonists along the Hudson River, with its lucrative fur trade, annoyed the English colonists in New England. *Wampum*, the medium of exchange between the settlers and Indians, was made out of hard shell clams found along the coast of Long Island, which the Dutch controlled. This likewise bothered the English colonists, so when Minuet sent his secretary, the youthful but well educated Isaac De Rasiers, on a good will visit to Plymouth, Governor Bradford received him with courtesy but gave him a message for the Dutch Governor which bluntly stated that the Dutch were settled on lands belonging to the English crown. Minuet was little disturbed by the claim, for De Rasier's report disclosed that the Plymouth colony had no military strength to enforce the alleged claim.

In the meanwhile the large grants of land obtained by Van Rensselaer and his associates failed to prove beneficial to the company, for these gentlemen were growing rich at the expense of the company. They were too powerful for direct attack, so the States-General suggested to the New Amsterdam Chamber that



Lower portion of Map of Anthony Jacobsz

1621

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Upper portion of Map of Anthony Jacobsz
1621





they recall Minuet on the ground that he was too friendly with these patroons.

Accordingly, on March 19, 1632, Minuet sailed for Holland on the *Eendragt*, accompanied by a number of sympathizing friends. His loyalty to the Dutch West India company was shown by his experience on the homeward trip. The *Eendragt*, driven into Plymouth England in a fierce storm, was detained by the English, on the ground that its passengers were illegally trading in the dominions of King Charles. Minuet got word to the Dutch Minister, who obtained an audience with the King. Minuet's defense of the rights of the Dutch to the New Netherland was masterful. He was released, and the claims of the respective nations were soon forgotten, as they struggled with more important domestic problems.

Minuet's recall was a distinct loss to the colony as future events disclosed.



Wampum

WOULTER VAN TWILLER



THE influence of Kiliaen Van Rensselaer in the affairs of the West India Company survived the scandal occasioned by the appropriation by its directors of vast territories of land in the New Netherland.

"We patroons," remarked Van Rensselaer "are privileged -- not private persons," and he proceeded to bring about the appointment of his henchman and relative by marriage, Woulter Van Twiller, as Governor of the New Netherland in place of Peter Minuet.

No one could dispute the fact that Van Twiller, during the five years he served as a clerk in the office of the West India Company, had gained a broad and comprehensive knowledge of and experience in the affairs of the settlement in America. He had made two voyages as the confidential agent of Van Rensselaer, which quieted all protests. Time alone could disclose that he was unable to fill any office requiring leadership and executive ability.

When a crisis arose he tried to meet it by imbibing great quantities of wine and quarrelling his way out of the difficulty.

Van Twiller arrived at Fort Amsterdam on the *Southberg* in April, 1633, and two days later demonstrated his unfitness for the important office by permitting the English ship *William* to sail up the Hudson to trade with the Indians at Fort Orange in defiance of the rules and regulations of the company and his authority as Governor-General. The prominent citizens of New Amsterdam protested so loudly and so vigorously that he was obliged to send up the river a detachment of soldiers who forced the poachers to leave the colony.

With Van Twiller came Dominie Evardus Bogardus, the



CAPTAIN JOHN BERRY HOMESTEAD
Rutherford, New Jersey
Erected 1690

THE CAPTAIN JOHN BERRY HOMESTEAD

Captain John Berry, an English officer from the island of Barbadoes in the West Indies, in 1669 purchased a tract of land stretching from Boiling Springs (East Rutherford) north to Coles Brook, Hackensack and westward from the Hackensack River to the Saddle River. He also purchased the 2000 odd acres on the East side of the Hackensack River which had been conveyed to Sarah Kierstede by Oratam. He donated the land on which the Dutch Reformed Church was erected in 1696, having previously donated the Green to the inhabitants of the Village of Hackensack.

He erected his home in Rutherford, N. J. about 1690.

He was not only the largest land owner in Bergen County but one of its most prominent and patriotic citizens.

first clergyman to officiate in Fort Amsterdam. Dominie Bogardus possessed all the qualities of leadership, which Van Twiller lacked, and like the clergymen of his day, was fearless in his denunciation of wrong doing. He criticized and condemned the actions of the governor on many occasions, at one time calling him a "child of the Devil."

The Dutch had settled the Connecticut Valley in 1623, and it was a part of the New Netherland. During Van Twiller's term of office, the New England farmers gradually forced the Dutch out, which would not have occurred if Governor Winthrop had found a foeman worthy of his steel, instead of a spineless clerk in the garments of a governor.

Like all men of his type in all the ages, Van Twiller lost no opportunity to build his own fortune. During the five years he served as governor, he repaired the buildings within the stockade of the Fort, erected three wind-mills and a fine brick government house in which he resided. On the company's farm along the Hudson River he erected a house, brewery and other buildings for his private use, with the company's money; in Pavonia he acquired land on which he erected two dwellings, and at Fort Orange he erected a nine room house, all out of the funds of the company, for his own private use. Without consulting the company he acquired in his own name 15,000 acres on Long Island in the neighborhood of Flatbush, and purchased the island opposite the lower end of Manhattan which ever since has been called "Governor's Island." Another island purchased by him is known as "Blackwell's Island." At the end of five years Van Twiller had become the richest land owner in the colony, which he christened "New Amsterdam."

The sand in the hour-glass had run its course, and a nemesis appeared in the person of a distinguished lawyer by the name of Lubbertus Van Dincklagen, the forerunner of such men as Goff, Jerome and Dewey. Fresh from Holland, he looked around and soon found that Van Twiller was "Racketeer No. 1." He told him so and threatened to expose him. Van Twiller had him

thrown into jail, and sent him back to Holland for trial on the first ship that sailed. This was the easiest way to get rid of a reformer, for he would probably languish in prison many years.

The Guardian Angel of Van Dincklagen hovered over his cell, as he prepared written charges against the governor, which ultimately reached the proper authorities, for we find that the States-General was so impressed by them that the Amsterdam Chamber of the West India Company was advised to recall Van Twiller, which they did on September 2, 1637. The new governor, William Kieft, was then sworn in.

Van Dincklagen was released and returned to New Amsterdam where he rendered valuable services to the company in many capacities.



Flag of the West India
Company



CAPTAIN DAVID PETERSEN DE VRIES

CAPTAIN DAVID PETERSEN DE VRIES

Captain de Vries was born at Rochelle in 1593. His father left Hoorn after the death of William of Orange in 1584. He made six voyages to various parts of the globe between 1618 and 1630.

In 1655 he published his *Short Historical and Journal Notes of several Voyages made in the four parts of the World, namely, Europe, Africa, Asia and America*. His last voyage was to the New Netherland, where he played a conspicuous and important part in the affairs of the government during the administration of William Kieft.

WILLIAM KIEFT



A high wind lashed the waters of the bay, as the good ship *Herring* came to anchor off the Battery on the 28th day of March, 1638. As the new Governor, William Kieft, set his foot on shore, the officials who greeted him saw trouble ahead. Unlike his weak, irresolute predecessor, Van Twiller, Governor Kieft took over the reins of government with an iron hand. He permitted no one to advise him, asking for information when he wanted it. He quickly discovered that there were two men in the colony to be feared--one, a resident, Dr. Johannes La Montagne, a French Huguenot physician of noble ancestry; and one, a navigator of renown who came and went as the spirit moved him, Captain David Petersen De Vries. He cultivated the acquaintance of both these gentlemen and appointed Dr. La Montagne a member of the Council. The West India Company permitted the Governor to choose his own council, so Kieft in order to control the council appointed himself also, thus giving La Montagne one vote and himself two. In the course of events he found that the secretary of the council, one Cornelis Van Tienhoven, was a tricky, subtle knave and one to do his bidding without asking too many questions. The heritage left by Van Twiller would have disheartened a weaker character, but Kieft had seen worse conditions in the tropics and here was a land of milk and honey, if you knew how to manage things. The Director's report to the Amsterdam Chamber on the condition of the colony is as follows:

The Fort is open at every side except the stone point; the guns are dismounted; the houses and public buildings are out of repair; the magazine for merchandise has disappeared; every vessel in the harbor is falling to pieces;

only one wind-mill is in operation; the farms of the company are without tenants and thrown into commons; the cattle are all sold or on the plantation of Van Twiller.

The Director could have added that all respect for law and order had ceased, for one of his first acts was to post notices written in his own hand warning the inhabitants under penalty of death to cease selling guns or powder to the Indians. This was followed by many others, such as forbidding illegal traffic in furs; limiting the amount of wine and liquor sold to each customer; fixing a tax on tobacco and fixing the hours of labor.

Kieft laid out Pearl Street for the best residences, and on the corner of Pearl Street and Coenties Slip he had a fine stone Inn erected, the first in New Amsterdam, which was followed by the first church edifice, erected within the confines of the fort for safety and which served the people for nearly a hundred years. We must wonder at the conflicting natures of this man. A sincere lover of horticulture and agriculture, he did everything possible in their advancement, including the introduction of fine cattle. On the other hand his brutality in dealing with the natives sickened the better element of the colony.

At midnight of February 26, 1643, he caused some eighty men, women and children belonging to the Tappan Tribe, who had come to him for protection against their enemy, the Mohawks, to be murdered in their sleep, which caused an Indian uprising, which at one time threatened the devastation of New Amsterdam itself.

In 1638, the first year of Kieft's administration, Peter Minuet returned to the New Netherland as the representative of the Swedish Government and purchased from the Indians a tract of land on the Delaware River, where Captain De Vries had planted a colony in 1631 for Samuel Blommaert and Samuel Godyn. Here occurred the first instance of the instability of the Dutch Province of the New Netherland. Hearing of Minuet's purchase and of the vast territory, extending up the Delaware as far as the present city of Trenton, claimed by Sweden under it, and which

comprised the southern portion of the Dutch colony, Kieft immediately sent a messenger home for instructions. But the West India Company did not have the courage to dispute the powerful Swedish nation, and accordingly, Sweden joined France and England as competitors of the Dutch.

When Kieft arrived in New Amsterdam he found that there was no currency in the colony. The medium of exchange used by the natives, *Sewan* and *Wampum*, the white and black beads made from hard shell clams, was adopted by Kieft, who fixed its market value.

The celebrated fence stretching from the East River to the Hudson River, along the line of the present Wall Street, was erected by order of the Governor to keep the cattle from straying and to lend additional protection to the Fort. Thus the name "Wall" street came into existence.

The adage that "the power to tax is the power to destroy" was exemplified by Kieft's resorting to taxation, when the West India Company failed to meet its monetary obligations. He placed a burdensome tax on all intoxicating beverages and beaver skins, which brought about a recurrence of the charges of mismanagement, incompetence and savagery, all of which were carefully compiled by the man who unseated Van Twiller, the distinguished lawyer, Lubbertus Van Dincklagen, and were forwarded by Cornelis Melyn, President of the Council, to the States-General which advised the West India Company to recall Kieft. Pending the appointment of a new Governor, Van Dincklagen was made provisional Governor.

In August, 1647, Kieft sailed on the *Princess* for Holland but never reached there, as the vessel was wrecked off the coast of Wales and all aboard perished.



PETER STUYVESANT



ON Christmas morning, 1646, Peter Stuyvesant, the successor of William Kieft, embarked for America. His ship took the southern route to permit the new Governor to stop over at Curacao in the West Indies, which at one time he governed and where, in battle, he lost his right leg. He arrived at New Amsterdam on May 11, 1647, and received a tumultuous greeting from the burghers as he stepped ashore. In his right hand he grasped a cane on which he leaned heavily, as he limped along on his "peg" leg, which was bound with ornamented silver bands, and his left hand rested on the hilt of a straight sword hanging at his side. No less distinguished was his tall, beautiful, flaxen-haired wife, who walked behind her dignified and imperious looking husband. The simple burghers gazed in awe at her fine raiment, fashioned by the best French designers. Yet this lovely, highly cultured and accomplished woman, leaving a luxurious life behind her, demonstrated her courage and strength of character in the troubled days ahead, advised and comforted her husband in times of stress and gave to America a race of men who played an important part in the birth of our nation and whose descendents are still prominent in our national affairs.

Stuyvesant was the son of a clergyman, well educated, quick tempered, but a trained soldier and an efficient administrator. Stuyvesant will always be remembered as a man who was loyal to the country in which he lived and died, a true American. The Indian wars occasioned by the brutality of his predecessor had left few farms in the province. In his own province he found Rensselaerwick defying constituted authority; a hostile New England in the North, and the Swedes encroaching on Dutch

Map of New Amsterdam - Jacques Fierens



THE FIERENS MAP

This map is a facsimile of the lower portion of the first published map of Hudson's River, printed by Jacques Fierens at Middleburgh, from the original in the New York Public Library. The Dutch work: *Verdere Aenteyckeninge* in which it appears was published in 1666, but the map itself is many years older than the publication.

territory in the South. The first two problems he settled by diplomacy, and the other by leading an expedition to the Delaware, where the arrival of his four armed vessels so terrified the Swedes that they surrendered without firing a shot. Thus Swedish rule in America came to an end.

During his absence the city narrowly escaped destruction by the Indians. Finding an Indian woman stealing peaches in his orchard, former Sheriff Van Dyck shot and killed her. Two thousand natives went on the war-path. The inhabitants found refuge within Fort Amsterdam, and, after killing Van Dyck, the natives crossed the Hudson and ravaged the settlements along the Jersey shore and on Staten Island. On his return, Stuyvesant with great tact, concluded a lasting peace with the Indians. Most of his negotiations were with the chief of the Hackensacks, Oratam.

A strict Calvinist, Stuyvesant rehabilitated his colony around the church, for he recognized the great influence of the church in the daily lives of his people. He resented the intrusion of the Lutherans and Quakers and issued a proclamation forbidding his people to assemble for religious services other than those of the Dutch Reformed Church.

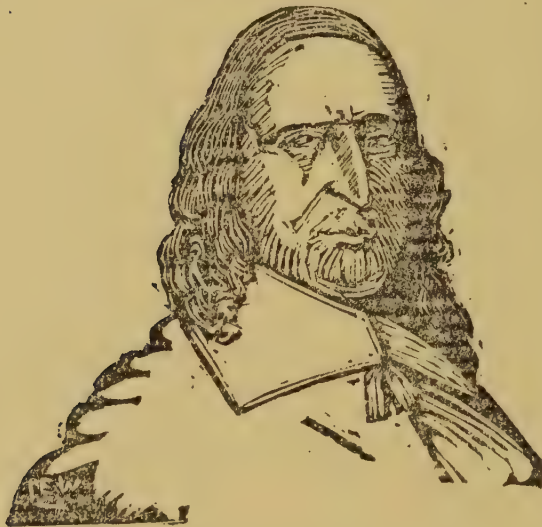
During his administration, New Amsterdam prospered and grew into a flourishing community. The principal streets were cobbled; new houses were erected; manufactories were established and the first public school was opened. Bakers were required by law to bake bread of a standard weight of pure wheat or rye flour, and an "itinerant merchant's law," becoming popular today, was passed, compelling peddlers and traders, if they wished to do business, to open a store and pay a fee equivalent to Eight dollars. During his administration, New Amsterdam became a city, and a seal bearing the arms of Old Amsterdam with a beaver for a crest was adopted. It bore the legend: *Sigillum Amstellodamensis in Nova Belgio*.

The new year, 1664, was ushered in with many misgivings. It was rumored that the King of England had given his brother, the Duke of York, the whole of New Netherland. Stuyvesant

PETER STUYVESANT

dispatched a messenger to Holland for advice, and he returned with a dispatch from the Company informing him that no danger was to be apprehended. England had deceived the West India Company, for on August 29th four British men-of-war came to anchor off the Staten Island shore, below the narrows, and Col. Nicolls sent ashore envoys who demanded the surrender of the city. Six harrowing days went by, and Stuyvesant, receiving no support from the frightened populace, against his will, capitulated. After the fall of New Amsterdam, Stuyvesant sailed for Holland to render an account of his administration, and when peace was finally declared between England and Holland, he returned to New York, where he became one of its most distinguished citizens. He died in 1672 at the age of eighty years.

When we stand before the slab, marking the tomb of Peter Stuyvesant, on the outer wall of St. Mark's Church, New York City, we stand in the presence of America's first citizen -- one who was willing to lay down his life for his country.



“ . . . America's first citizen ”

NOVA BELGICA sive NIEUW

Quebecq

Fort Orange

COLO

RENSELAERS

NEDERLANDT

Landt van Bacham

Landt van Esopus

Wappinges

Waranawankongs

COLONIE VAN DE HEER NEDER

Tappaans

HORST

Nieuw Amsterdam

Sanhucans

Matorancons

Aquanachu

Ermomex

Naraticons

Groote Rivier

NIEUW AMSTERDAM

N O R T

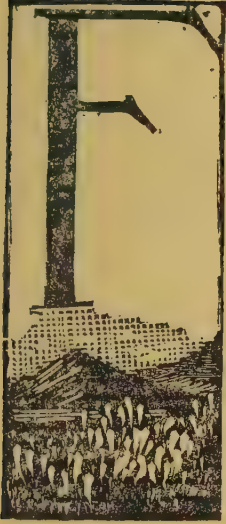


THE VAN DER DONCK MAP

This is a facsimile of a map published in Holland in 1656 from the original in the New York Public Library.

It is generally conceded that it was prepared many years prior to its publication, probably during the early part of the Kieft administration when the settlers were still at peace with the natives.

THE PATROONS



FOUR men sat around the oval table of the famous Inn, the *Archer & Target*, in Amsterdam, Holland, on the 6th day of June 1627. Before them were spread figurative maps of the New Netherland, which they were quietly examining as they sipped the fine Rhenish wine for which the Inn was noted. They were four of the directors of the Amsterdam Chamber of the West India Company. Having obtained advanced information of the approval by the States-General of the *Charter of Privileges and Exemption*, promulgated by the West India Company, they were meeting secretly in the parlour of the Inn, gathered around the oval table on which history had been written.

It was Kiliaen Van Rensselaer, the wealthy dealer in pearls and diamonds who first broke the silence. "Mein Heers," said he, "we are met here tonight to announce our intentions with respect to the *Charter of Privileges and Exemptions*, which gives our members the right to claim land along the seashore or along one side of a navigable stream anywhere in the New Netherland, to the length of sixteen miles, or eight miles in length on both sides of such stream, provided that the Indian title thereto be quieted and fifty colonists be settled thereon. The Company has specifically reserved the Island of Manhattan, purchased by Peter Minuet last year, to itself. This island is unproductive, but the adjoining country is rich in furs and timber, and the opportunity of selecting the best locations now presents itself to us. First come is first served. As you know, I have already sent Woulter Van Twiller on two voyages with settlers and cattle, and he has located them in the neighborhood of Fort Orange on the Mauritius(Hudson) River. I have called this colony Rensselaer-

THE PATROONS

wick and am filing my claim to it, making me the first Patroon of the New Netherland. Your health, Mein Heers."

And raising his glass in a heavily jewelled hand, he sipped the fine vintage with the art of a connoisseur. Samuel Godyn set his empty glass upon the table and slowly pressed a heavily laced handkerchief to his bearded lips. Samuel Blommaert, across the table, gave him an encouraging nod, which loosened his hesitating tongue.

"Mein Heers," said he, "Heer Blommaert and I have also had representatives abroad and we have decided to claim the west shore of the South(Delaware)River extending thirty-two miles from Cape Henlopen. We have called our colony *Swaan-endael*, and when Captain David De Vries returns from his voyage we will send him thither with settlers and cattle." And filling his glass with wine, he passed the bottle to Van Rensselaer.

In the meanwhile, the fourth member of the group, Michael Pauw, a nobleman of Utrecht, had been quietly and rather anxiously listening to the wily merchants dividing the choice places among themselves. He had also sent a representative to New Amsterdam, who had reported to him that the mainland on the River Mauritius (Hudson) opposite Fort Amsterdam was by far the choicest spot. From here the natives crossed the river to the Fort with their pelts, and a colony planted there would embrace the established trading posts of Hoboken, Bergen and Achter Col (Hackensack). So Michael Pauw, quietly meeting the expectant gaze of his companions with an air of resignation, announced that he would claim the west shore of Hudson's River and that Michael Paulison was already aboard ship with settlers and cattle.

The harmonious meeting of the four gentlemen of Amsterdam came to an end, but their claims aroused the ire of their missing associates, who accused them of perfidy and gave birth to a bitter quarrel which resulted in long drawn out litigation. The historian, John De Laet, was mollified when he received an interest in Rensselaerwick, which comprised all of the territory lying in the present counties of Albany, Columbia and Rensselaer.

THE PATROONS

Captain De Vries refused to sail and plant a colony on the Delaware unless he received a share, which was given him. Thus the exploitation of the New Netherland began by men who never saw America, except Captain De Vries, who played an important part in the affairs of New Amsterdam in later days.

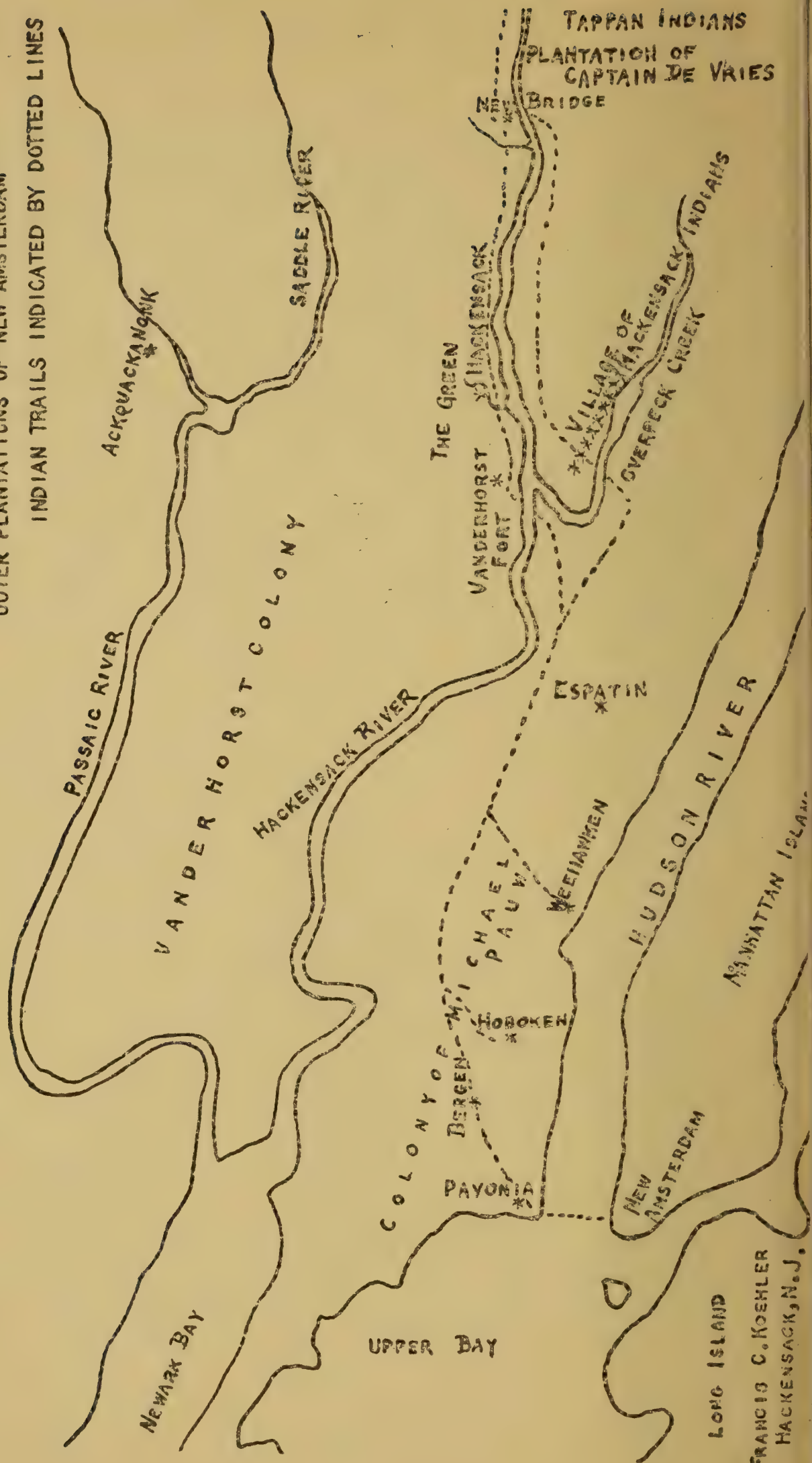
The first unofficial Governor of New Netherland was Captain May, who brought thirty families in the *New Netherland* in 1624 and found lodgment around Fort Orange and on the Connecticut River. Captain May being recalled to Holland in 1625, William Verhulst succeeded him. Up to this time there had been no organized effort to colonize New Netherland. The Dutch East India Company had taken no interest in its development. With the demise of this company and the rise of the Dutch West India Company, the colonization of New Netherland was begun, and in 1626 Peter Minuet arrived in New Amsterdam as its first official Governor.



A Patroon

OUTER PLANTATIONS OF NEW AMSTERDAM

INDIAN TRAILS INDICATED BY DOTTED LINES



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PREFACE

When we undertake to trace the history of Bergen County and its settlements, we must go back many years preceding the colonization of the island of Manhattan and the establishment of Fort Amsterdam, in order to obtain a clear picture of the progress of events.

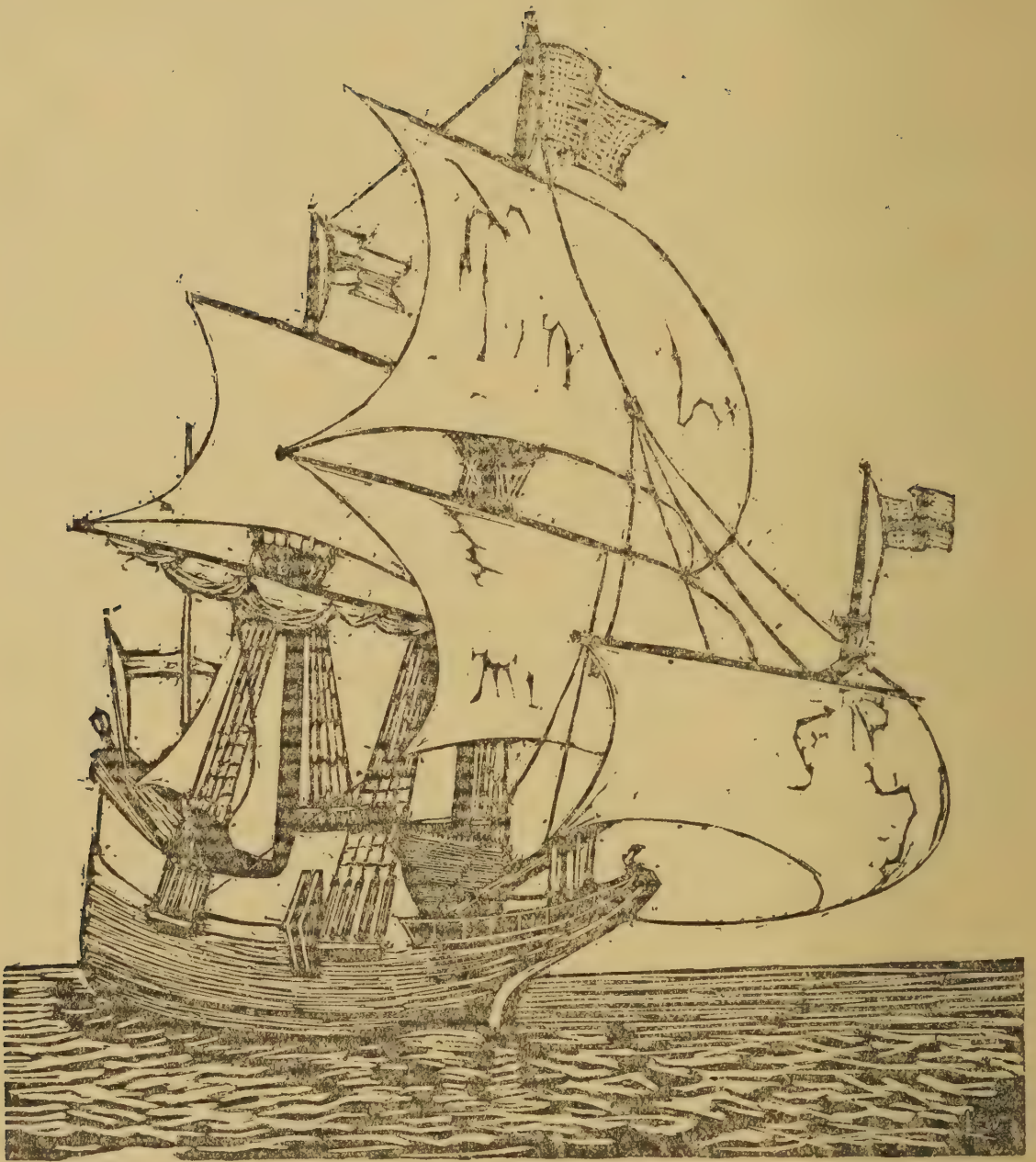
As we struggle thru the voluminous histories, we ultimately reach the conclusion that one author after the other has followed in the footsteps of his predecessor and embellished his pages with his own views and interpretations, and employed his own terminology and style.

Happily, however, the documentary history of the New Netherland, thru the patient and untiring efforts of those two brilliant scholars, James Romeyn Brodhead and Dr. E. B. O'Callaghan, has been preserved for posterity. With the consent of the Dutch government they translated these priceless documents into English; so today we have a written record before us, authentic and indisputable.

Disregarding the controversial matters arising out of the politics of the time, we find a readable and understandable record before us, amplified here and there by family manuscripts.

With an accurate knowledge of our particular locality, geographically and topographically, supported by our own family histories and traditions, we can correct many erroneous conclusions and bring to light much which has been overlooked, as we write our own story.

F.C.K.



The HALF MOON



THREE HUNDRED YEARS

ACROSS STORMY SEAS

When, early in July 1609, the storm-tossed *Half Moon*, her sails rent and torn, her foremast gone, poked her rusty nose thru the fog off the coast of Nova Scotia, Henry Hudson's crew broke out in cheers.

In a calm sea, they stepped a new mast, unfurled new sails and with happy hearts crept down the Atlantic coast looking for that great waterway which would lead them to the China sea and India. Instead of finding a passage to Cathay, they found themselves inside of the Delaware Bay, and as they entered the Delaware river they found themselves in a river which soon became less and less navigable. On August 28th they turned back and sailed up our New Jersey coast.

Robert Juet, navigator of the *Half Moon*, in his log, relates how on September 4th they had dinner with the Indians on the shore of what today is called Perth Amboy; on September 5th they had a picnic with the same Indians in the woods, where they saw great oaks; how the Indians brought dried currents and other fruits on board of the *Half Moon*. Juet says he ate them and they

were "sweet and good." On September 11th the *Half Moon* entered New York Bay. From our old Bergen County shore there came 28 canoes full of men and women bearing oysters and beans, for the visitors. On October 2d the *Half Moon* lay at anchor beneath the lofty Palisades near what today is called Hoboken. Juet says: "we anchored in a bay clear from all dangers, where we saw a very good piece of ground and hard by it there was a cliff that looked the color of white green (Castle Rock)." Juet was deeply impressed with the sight of our trees for he says: "A country full of great and tall oaks."

On October 4th he says: "We took in our boat and set our main sails and sprit sail and our top-sails and steered away southeast and southeast by east off into the Main Sea." The *Half Moon* was on her way home--she had entered two new great rivers and her bow was pointed homeward -- her crew jubilant over their discovery.

The natives described by Robert Juet belonged to our own tribe of *Hackensack* Indians, whose chieftain, Oratam, was thirty two years of age at the time. During the period beginning with the arrival of Peter Minuet in 1626 and ending with the English conquest in 1664, Oratam played a conspicuous part in the affairs of the first settlers of New Amsterdam. Born in 1577, he saw the Dutch come and go before his death in 1669.

DUTCH PIONEERS

A clear, concise statement of the coming of the Dutch to America was made by Peter Minuet in 1632, when on his return to Holland his ship was detained by the English authorities in Plymouth harbor. He demanded and obtained an audience with the King and defended the rights of the Dutch to the New Netherland on the ground that:

"They, the Dutch, had discovered the Hudson River in 1609; that some of their people had returned there in 1610; that a specific trading charter had been granted in 1614;



BANTA HOMESTEAD
Howland Avenue, Paramus Boro
Erected 1704

BANTA HOMESTEAD

This old landmark, standing on the north side of Howland Avenue, which was a main thorofare from the New Bridge to the Paramus camp during the Revolution, witnessed many thrilling events during the war.

In 1780 several Continental regiments were encamped in the field of the Banta farm.

In 1903 Cornelius Banta, then an aged man, informed the author that his grandfather, a youth of 14 years, saw Washington several times, as he passed the house and on one occasion held his horse, *a fine chestnut bay*.

At this time General Stirling was quartered a half mile from the Banta place and General Washington in his *Steenraapie* (New Bridge) headquarters.

that a fort and garrison had been maintained there until the formation in 1623 of the West India Company, which had since occupied the country."

It was Captain Henrick Christiaensen, however, who conceived the idea of paying the place a visit, as his vessel sighted the Long Island shore on its return voyage from the West Indies in 1611. Upon reaching Holland, he persuaded Adriaen Block to join him in the venture. Chartering a small vessel, they loaded it with merchandise and sailed for New Netherland. They had a most successful trip and their glowing accounts and figurative maps stirred the Holland merchants into activity. In 1613 they returned to the New Netherland with two vessels, Christiaensen in the *Fortune* and Block in the *Tiger*. They were later followed by Captain John De Witt in the *Little Fox*, Captain Volckertsen in the *Nightingale*, and Captain Cornelis Jacobson May (later to become famous) in the *New Netherland*. In that year (1613), Christiaensen and Block, "by means of trading-boats visited every creek, bay, river and inlet in the neighborhood where a settlement was to be found."

Leaving Block on Manhattan Island, Christiaensen sailed up the coast. The *Tiger*, lying at anchor in the upper bay, caught afire and was burned to the water's edge. Block was compelled to spend the winter on the island. He and his crew were assisted by the natives in rebuilding the *Tiger*, in which they sailed up the coast the following spring, meeting Christiaensen off the New England coast. Block turned his ship over to his mate and returned with his partner to Holland in the *Fortune*. This incident is recorded in the Royal Archives at the Hague under the date of August 18, 1614, and the tales of these two men resulted in the formation of the United Netherland Company, the first trading company. Their recorded experiences justify the statements made by eminent historians, that by 1618 "*some Hollanders made lodgment in Bergen County, settling in the low lands lying along the Hackensack River and its tributaries*; that the oldest European settlement in New Jersey was at Bergen, dating back to 1618,

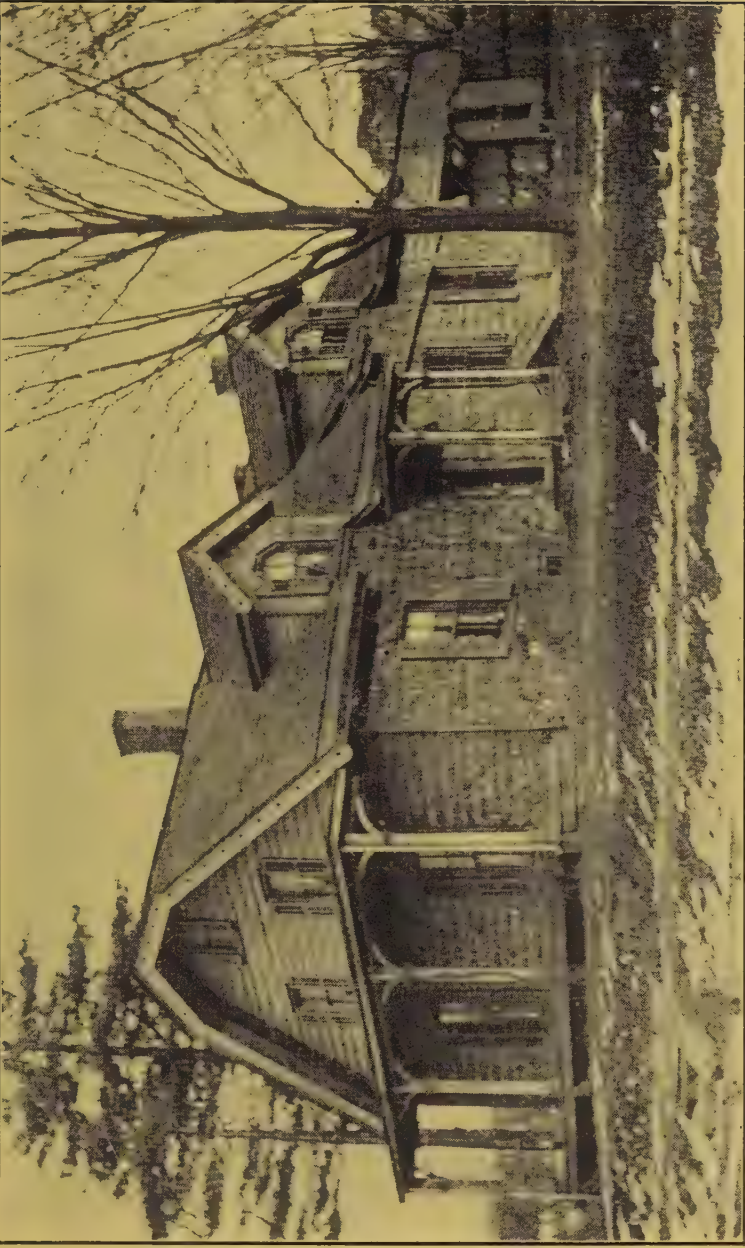
and that in 1618 a trading post was established at Pavonia."¹

INDIAN TRAILS

At this time there were three important Indian villages lying between the Hudson and Hackensack rivers. Two of these, one at Communipaw and the other on the Overpeck Creek,^{1a} were Hackensack Indian villages; and the third, that of the Tappan Indians, was located on the upper reaches of the Hackensack river.² Well beaten trails led from these villages to the Hudson River opposite lower Manhattan. On the west side of the Hackensack River the *Kinkachemeck* trail followed the river from the north and joined the *Awapaugh* trail at the junction of the Overpeck Creek and the Hackensack River. The Indians on the Saddle River followed a trail which joined the *Kinkachemeck* trail at Hackensack, where another trail branched off thru *Polifly* to the Passaic River. As "all roads lead to Rome," so all Bergen Indian trails led to the junction of the Overpeck and Hackensack.

These *River Indians*, so called by historians, summered on Staten Island, over which the Hackensack Indians asserted ownership and which in later years the Raritan Indians pillaged. The first Dutch traders soon discovered that on a flood tide the trip from Staten Island Sound thru the Kill van Kull into Newark Bay and thence up the Hackensack River to the villages of the Hackensack and Tappans was easily, safely and quickly accomplished.³

Behind the towering Palisades lay a rich, fertile country in which there were many acres of ripening corn and land cleared, ready for occupation, and, most important of all, friendly, childlike natives. By 1630 the rude log huts of independent emigrants, who had reached America before the formation of the West India Company, were to be found along the Hackensack River in the neighborhood of the village of the Hackensack In-



THE BOGERT HOMESTEAD
River Road Bogota, New Jersey

THE BOGERT HOMESTEAD

Guilliam Bougaert emigrated from Holland in 1662. Tradition says that Clemens Roeluff C. Bogart who married Gertrude Briant in Ackingsack in October 1695 brought his bride to this house. On January 26th, 1753 Roeluff Bogaert was born in the dwelling on the northeast corner of River Road and Fort Lee Road.

During the Revolution this old stone house was used as a tavern by one Rosencrans.

Bogota received its name from the Bogert family. At one time the farms of four Bogert families embraced what is now the Borough of Bogota. Albert Zabriskie Bogert and Judge Peter Bogert were prominent in public affairs in the memory of many middle aged persons of today.

dians, with whom they freely mingled. As Mrs. Van Rensselaer says:

“By the end of the year 1623, these Hollanders in planting their trading posts and little settlements had dropped the first seeds of civilization on the soil of what afterwards became five of the Thirteen colonies.”

In this year 30 Walloon families were sent to New Netherland.

The FOUR GENTLEMEN of AMSTERDAM

The West India Company came into existence in 1623. Its directors were wealthy, influential men. It controlled two colonies, the South American Colony and the New Netherland Colony, having been given exclusive privileges for 20 years. Kiliaen Van Rensselaer, Samuel Blommaert, Samuel Godyn and Michael Pauw were the “big four” of the New Netherland Colony. In June, 1629, their Charter of Privileges and Exemptions was ratified by the States-General. Under its provisions *any member* could claim a section of land sixteen miles in length on one side of a navigable stream or eight miles in length on both sides of such a stream, with no limitation as to *width*.

The claimant, who became the *patroon*, had to quiet the Indian title and provide fifty colonists, who became tax exempt for ten years, but who had to pay the patroon ten per cent of their harvest. The patroon reserved to himself all hunting, fishing and mill-rights. Van Rensselaer, Blommaert, Godyn and Pauw picked the choicest locations and sent their representatives to America to run their colonies. They themselves never came to America.

By the end of 1630 the colony of Michael Pauw embraced all of the Jersey shore opposite Manhattan, extending to the Hackensack River or what today constitutes Hudson County.

THREE ERAS

The settlement of New Amsterdam and its outlying plantations, which we today call the Metropolitan area of New York City, can be divided into three eras: the first being the period preceding the organization of the West India Company in 1623; the second being the period following the colonization of New Amsterdam and embracing the administrations of the three governors, Van Twiller, Kieft and Stuyvesant; and the third being the period beginning in the year 1664 when the British first took possession and the subsequent development of the Colony of East New Jersey under the Proprietors.

During the first era, as early as 1613, the present metropolitan area was not only carefully explored, but during the ten years following, maps were prepared, localities named and settlements founded along the inland streams of Long Island and New Jersey. During this period the territory lying north of Newark Bay (baptized the *Col*) received the name of *Achter Col*.

In *Achter Col* lived Oratam, the principal chieftain of the Hackensack Indians and the principal village of that tribe.^{3a} Out of *Achter Col* (by way of Pavonia, where the Indians crossed the Hudson to Fort Amsterdam) came the bulk of pelts for which the white settlers traded.⁴ Thus in 1623, when the West India Company took over the affairs of the defunct East India Company, *Achter Col* was already occupied by Dutch traders.

Achter Col figures very prominently in the documentary history of the New Netherland. Brodhead defines it as meaning the territory "after Newark Bay." Dr. O'Callaghan translates a Dutch definition into English as follows "*Hackingsack, otherwise called Achter Col*." The doctor brought back a map from Holland dated 1621, which distinctly shows the river *Achter Col*.⁵ Woodrow Wilson in his *History of the American People*, says the first published map of Hudson's River is found in a Dutch work printed by Jacques Fierens, in Middleburgh. *Achter Col*, with small marks indicating habitation, is shown on this map. Tappan



ACKERMAN - BRINKERHOFF HOMESTEAD
Polifly Road, Hasbrouck Heights Erected 1728

THE ACKERMAN - BRINKERHOFF HOME

The Ackerman family of which Abraham Ackerman was the progenitor, is a large and prominent family.

Abraham Ackerman was born May 15, 1659, and his descendants were active in the civic and social life of the county.

This particular dwelling was erected by Johannes Ackerman in 1728.

During the Revolutionary War Sir Henry Clinton's forces were engaged in the neighborhood (called Polifly) by local militia.

In November 1776 the Continental Army in its retreat across the Jerseys passed the house.

The records of the Board of Freeholders disclose that in 1717 David Ackerman was a member of the Board and year after year thereafter a member of the family was on the Board.

In 1735, we find three Ackermans: Abraham, Egbert and Lourance on the Board representing three different townships.

is also shown thereon. Both these places played an important and tragic part in the history of New Amsterdam.

In the second era, we find the establishment of feudal estates called *patroonships*. Captain Petersen De Vries condemned the greed of the patroons Van Rensselaer, Blommaert, Godyn and De Laet in establishing their colonies with the money of the West India Company, instead of their own, saying:

“Michael Pauw, discovering that they had appropriated the land at Fort Orange (Albany) to themselves, immediately had the land lying opposite Fort Amsterdam, *where the Indians are compelled to cross to the fort with their beavers*, registered for himself and called it Pavonia.” (italics mine)

Myndert Myndertsen (Lord Nederhorst) of Utrecht, Holland, and a neighbor of Michael Pauw (Lord of Achttienhoven) registered for himself the land adjoining that of Michael Pauw to the west. His colony extended sixteen miles north from the junction of the Hackensack River and the Northwest Kil (Passaic River) to the brook which is the northern boundary of the present City of Hackensack.⁶

On the map of Adriaen van der Donck, published in Holland in 1656, which Mr. William H. Richardson, noted author and historian of Jersey City, stated was prepared prior to 1649, the *Colonie van der Heer Neder Horst* is prominently shown on the west side of the Hackensack River, which verifies President Wilson's statement that the Fierens map is older, as van der Horst's colony is not shown thereon, but the colony of *Achter Col* is.

The third era starts with the establishment of the English government under Philip Carteret, Governor of the Province of East New Jersey, who built his home in the present City of Newark, which on July 11, 1667, was purchased from the Hackensack Indians by a group of Connecticut farmers, who called their settlement “Ye Towne of Paysack.” Governor Carteret sent a Captain Treat to the village of Oratam, requesting the chieftain's presence and his signature to the deed, but Oratam was ninety years of age and too feeble to make the trip.

During this era the rude log huts of the early settlers were replaced by the red sand stone homes we see today. With the arrival of domestic animals, particularly the ox, settlers hauled out huge red sand stones from their fields and fashioned them into rude blocks for building. The clay of the Hackensack River when puddled to the consistency of putty and mixed with lime and straw, not only made a fine cement, but gave the settlers a material with which to plaster the walls and ceilings of their homes. Today there are many colonial homes in Bergen County, the walls and ceilings of which are so plastered. The chimneys were also lined with clay which burned hard.

With the coming of the English came progress and the small settlements in the Hackensack Valley attracted substantial citizens from New York City and Long Island. During this period the village of Hackensack grew into importance and retained it until the middle of the 19th century when the industrial cities of Jersey City and Paterson forged ahead.

The VAN DER HORST COLONY

Continuing our narrative, which had reached the year 1630, it is pertinent to say in passing that, in the Pavonia Tercentenary celebration in 1930, great stress was laid on the fact that *Pavonia* is clearly shown on the van der Donck map. We lay emphasis on the fact that maps, ante-dating the van der Donck map by many years, show *Achter Col*, and that on the van der Donck map the *Colony of van der Heer Neder Horst* is conspicuously shown. The van der Donck map, with remarkable accuracy, shows the course of the Hackensack River and of its two tributaries, the Overpeck and Pascack creeks. That the territory known as *Achter Col* or Hackensack was definitely settled prior to 1640 is not only supported by the maps hereinabove referred to but by *American Historical Society Papers* and the *Journal of New Netherland*.⁷ We also find in *Whitehead's East New Jersey under the Proprietors* the following statement: "In 1640 planters and



TERHUNE HOMESTEAD
River Road - Teaneck, New Jersey
North wing erected in 1745

THE TERHUNE HOMESTEAD

The title to this homestead has been in the Terhune family since 1745, almost two hundred years.

The present owner, P. Christie Terhune's grandfather John H. V. Terhune and his great-grandfather Jacob C. Terhune were High Sheriffs of Bergen County.

Cornelius Terhune, father of Jacob C. Terhune was a Bergen County Minute Man during the Revolution.

traders were found at Bergen, Communipaw, Hoboken, Weehawken and Hackensack.”⁸

Myndert Myndertsen, the Lord of Nederhorst, like the other wealthy patroons, never came to America. He sent an agent by the name of Johannes Winkelman to America to represent him, and it was this agent who established the headquarters of the colony on the west bank of the Hackensack River, where it is joined by the Overpeck Creek.⁹ Winkelman’s credentials are conclusively established in a certain law suit brought against him by one Cornelis Melyn on June 26, 1652.^{9a}

The headquarters or “fort” of the van der Horst colony was well chosen because of its proximity to the village of the Hackensack Indians, which stretched along the westerly bank of the Overpeck, extending as far north as Cedar Lane, Teaneck. Thus fortified and manned by a number of soldiers from New Amsterdam, the headquarters gave the settlers a certain feeling of security. Both the Hackensack and Tappan Indians had to pass the spot either by land or water, and the Kinkachemeck (Kinderkammack) trail crossed the Hackensack river at this point.

Tradition tells us that planters were settled along the Hackensack River from this point northward to the “Green” in the village of Hackensack, where more than two hundred and fifty years ago the congregation of the Dutch Reformed Church was organized.¹⁰

Captain DAVID PETERSEN DE VRIES

Mr. Charles H. Winfield, noted historian, relates an incident which is of great interest to us, as follows:

“On June 25, 1636, Woulter Van Twiller and Dominie Bogardus, husband of Anneke Jans, accompanied Captain de Vries on a visit to Cornelis van Vorst at Pavonia.”

Van Twiller at that time was Director-General of New Amsterdam and van Vorst was the chief officer of Pavonia. This passage brings two important personages into our picture: (1) An-

netje or Anneke Janssen, widow of Rensselaer Janssen, who married Dominie Evardus Bogardus in 1632. Annetje had a daughter by her first husband named Sarah, who in 1638 became the bride of Dr. Hans Kierstede. It was Sarah Kierstede of Trinity Parish, who became Oratam's interpreter. Oratam at this time was fifty-nine years of age. Sarah's association with the Hackensack Indians began in childhood, and the village of Oratam must have been a familiar spot to her and her family many years prior to 1638. Sarah not only mastered the difficult vocabulary of the Lenni-Lenapes, but, it is said, she taught their language at Fort Amsterdam.

The importance of her association with this great Hackensack Indian and the services rendered to him by her are evidenced by the fact that Oratam conveyed some two thousand acres of land lying between the Hackensack River and Overpeck Creek to her in payment of such services,^{10a} and (2) the story of this visit brings into Bergen County that colorful and renowned adventurer, David Petersen de Vries, whose *Journal Notes* in the form of a diary is the only sustained personal narrative by any person who was active in the affairs of New Amsterdam during the administrations of van Twiller and Kieft.¹¹

De Vries was a bold mariner, who liked the *feel* of the deck beneath his feet and did little exploring by land. Between 1627 and 1644 his vessels poked their noses into every navigable stream between the St. Lawrence and Delaware Rivers. Preceding the Swedes by seven years, he established, on behalf of Blommaert and Godyn, a settlement on the Delaware in 1630, which settlement was later destroyed by the Indians. Returning from a trip to Holland in 1636, he made application for a colony on Staten Island, which van Twiller promised to assist in colonizing. This was about the time he accompanied van Twiller to Pavonia for in his Journal he says:

"1636. On June 25th I went with the commander and minister to Pavonia opposite the fort in the colony of Michael Pauw."



DEMAREST HOMESTEAD
Teaneck Road, Teaneck, New Jersey
Erected 1735

THE DEMAREST HOMESTEAD

This building was erected by Henrick Brinkerhoff grandson of the pioneer Henrick Jorisse Brinkerhoff in 1735 on a portion of the original tract purchased by his grandfather in 1685. On February 18, 1829 the property was purchased by Jasper Demarest and has ever since been occupied by his descendants.

“On the 13th (August) I requested Woulter van Twiller to register Staten Island for me, as I wished to return and plant a colony upon it, which he consented to do.”

De Vries then sailed for Holland, and returning in 1638 found that no settlers had been sent to his colony on Staten Island so, according to Mrs. van Rensselaer, he leased his bouweries on Staten Island and bought lands of the Indians “in a beautiful region called Tappan on the west bank of the river (Hudson) a few miles north of Fort Amsterdam. Naming his bouwerie ‘Vriesendaël,’ by the end of the year 1640 he began to take hold of it.”¹²

VRIESENDÆL

Mrs. van Rensselaer, writing in 1909, must have been aware of the fact that de Vries had purchased *two* properties on the west side of the Hudson River, but as this had no particular bearing on the subject matter which she was writing about, let it rest there, or perhaps she accepted the story about Vriesendaël written in 1874 by Lamb and Harrison, which locates Vriesendaël in Tappan, whereas Vriesendaël with its “beautiful manor house, barns, granaries, tobacco house” and other out-buildings, was in fact located “an hour’s walk” north of the headquarters of van der Horst’s colony. As all historians have fallen into the same error, we will be guided solely by de Vries’ own narrative. Having leased out his bouweries on Staten Island in 1638, he found an ideal spot for a home on the Hackensack River the following year, and early in 1640 he began to develop it. In his Journal under date of 1640, he says:

“The 10th of February I have begun to make a plantation a mile and a half or two above the Fort, as there was there a fine location and full thirty-one morgens of maize land, where there were no trees to remove; and hay land lying altogether, sufficient for two hundred head of cattle, which is a great article there. I went there to live, half on account of the pleasure of it as it was well situated along the river. I

THREE HUNDRED YEARS

leased out the plantation on Staten Island, as no people had been sent me from Holland."

When de Vries said *two* miles above the fort, he spoke in Dutch miles, which were equal to *six* English miles, which in turn are longer than American miles. His plantation was therefore a little more than six miles north of Fort Amsterdam according to his calculations. He says it was well situated along the river. Obviously there was but one such river and that was the Hackensack.

De Vries then describes another trip which he made up the Hudson River in 1640, as follows:

"The 15th of April I went with my sloop to Fort Orange (Albany) where I wanted to examine the land which is on the river. Arrived in Tappan in the evening, where a large valley of about 200 or 300 morgens of clay-soil lies under the mountain, three or four feet above the water. . . . I bought this valley from the Indians, *as it was three miles above my plantation* and five miles from the fort," (italics mine)

A Dutch *morgen* was equivalent to two acres of land, hence de Vries purchased about four to six hundred acres. His description of clay-soil "three or four feet above the water" is descriptive of the west shore of the Hudson River at Piermont and his "Valley" followed the Tappan Creek inland toward Old Tappan where the village of the Tappan Indians was located.

His purchase, he said, was situated three miles above his plantation, or six English miles. This brings his plantation close to Hackensack as it is *six American miles, as the crow flies, from New Bridge (North Hackensack) to Old Tappan*. It is approximately four miles, as the crow flies, from New Bridge to the junction of the Overpeck Creek and the Hackensack River. With these distances in mind, we will accompany de Vries on that memorable day in 1642 which he describes in detail as follows:

"About this time I walked to Acking-sack, taking a gun with me, in order to see how far the colony of Heer Vander Horst had advanced, *as it was only a short hour's walk behind*



ACKERMAN HOMESTEAD
River Road, Teaneck, New Jersey
Erected 1787

THE ACKERMAN HOMESTEAD

This home, now occupied by former Sheriff Joseph Kinzley Jr., remodelled and enlarged, was originally the home of John Ackerman who lived here in 1787. Another John Ackerman ran a stage from the New Bridge to Fort Lee in 1834.

my House. On approaching Ackingsack about five or six hundred paces from where the colony was started, an Indian met me who was entirely drunk. He came up to me and struck me on the arm which is a token of friendship among them and said I was a Good Chief; that when he came to my house I let him have milk and everything for nothing; that he had just come from this house where they had sold him brandy into which they had put half water; that he could scoop up water himself from the river; that they had also stolen his beaver coat and he wanted to go home and get his bow and arrows and would kill some one of the villainous Swannekens who had stolen his goods. I told him he must not do so. I then proceeded on to the house of Heer Vander Horst and I told some soldiers and others who were there that they must not treat the Indians in that manner as they were a very revengeful people. . . . I then returned home and on my way shot a wild turkey weighing thirty pounds and brought it along with me. I was not long home when there came some Chiefs from Ackingsack and Reckawanch which was close by me and informed me that one of them, the Indian who was drunk had shot a Dutchman dead who was sitting on a barn thatching it. They asked me what they should do." etc. (*italics mine*)

Thus we find Vriesendaal close to the northern boundaries of the City of Hackensack and the Township of Teaneck; here on both sides of the Hackensack River were broad stretches of corn land and pastures for cattle; here were fresh river water and fine mill sites. It was here where the famous Hackensack corn and melons grew so abundantly for many years. Tradition lays great emphasis on the importance of this area, stretching from New Bridge to River Edge. When David des Marest purchased the east bank of the Hackensack River, running northerly from New Bridge six miles and easterly two miles, from the Tappan Indians in 1677, it is said that he was attracted to the broad fertile fields lying between New Bridge and River Edge which were

ready for the planting of tobacco and maize, as well as by the fine mill sites along the river.¹³

Only thirty odd years had then elapsed since the departure of de Vries from America. And today, when we stand on the east bank of the river where the Samuel Demarest house, erected in 1678, still stands, with the lagoon hard by, where his tide-water mill once stood, we gaze over the broad expanse of level arable land and are convinced that here de Vries built his fine manor-house overlooking the river.

The Tappan Indians and the Hackensack Indians belonged to the same family, and their characteristics are described by de Vries as follows:

“Though they are revengeful toward their enemies, they are very friendly to us. We have no fears of them; we go with them into the woods; we meet each other sometimes at an hour or two’s distance from any house and we think nothing more of it as if a Christian met us. They also sleep in the chambers before our beds, but lying down on the bare ground with a stone or a piece of wood under the head.”

It was this friendly, childlike character of these Bergen County Indians that lured the early settlers to the Hackensack Valley. Eventually the brutality of the white man aroused these Indians to murderous fury.

The first recorded incident arose in 1643, and it laid the groundwork for a series of Indian wars which threatened to exterminate the settlements along the Hudson, including New Amsterdam itself. It is related by de Vries as follows:

“On the 22nd day of February there broke out a war among the Indians. The Mayekenders (Mohawks) who came from Fort Orange wanted to levy a contribution upon the Indians of Wickquasgeck (Westchester) and Tappan and of the adjacent villages. There came flying to my house four or five hundred Indians asking that I would protect them. I answered that I could not interfere in their wars; that I now saw that they were children; that they were flying from all



THE ZABRISKIE-KIPP-CADMUS HOMESTEAD
River Road, Teaneck, New Jersey
Erected 1761

THE ZABRISKIE-KIPP-CADMUS HOMESTEAD

George Zabriskie, brother of Peter Zabriskie, famous owner of the Mansion House on the Green, Hackensack, erected this home about ten years subsequent to the erection of the

Mansion House which was erected in 1751.

The late Henry Banta Cadmus, survived by his son Harold K. Cadmus, was a direct descendant of John Cadmus, confidential agent of General Washington. John Cadmus was captured by the British and was so brutally treated that he died two weeks after his release. One of his passes permitting him to pass thru the American lines reads as follows:

“New Jersey State,

Bergen County, ss:

Permit the bearer John Cadmus To pass and Repass
from this place to Slotterdam, the Respectif place of
his Abode-Unmolested-he behaving as becoming a
friend to his Country and Me.

Pomtan Nov. 6th, 1780

Abrm. Ackerman, Justice

To whom concerned.”

sides from eighty or ninety men, when they themselves were so many hundred strong. . . . As my house was full of Indians and I had only five men with me I made ready to go to the Fort to obtain some soldiers for the purpose of having more force in my house. So I took a canoe, as my boat was frozen in the kil, and went in the canoe or hollow tree, which is their boat, between the cakes of ice over the river to Fort Amsterdam, where I requested Governor Kieft to assist me with some soldiers. The Governor said he had no soldiers; that I must see how it would be in the morning and stop at night with him, which I did. The next day the Indians came in troops on foot from my house to Pavonia to the Fort."

The WHITE SAVAGE

Some of these Indians remained in Pavonia, while others found refuge at Corlear's Hook on Manhattan Island. Director Kieft, at the instance of unscrupulous associates including the secretary of the colony, van Tienhoven, planned to get rid of the natives. De Vries, backed by Dr. John la Montagne, a French Huguenot physician, and Dominie Bogardus warned Kieft that he was sounding the death-knell of the Dutch farmers scattered in the outlying plantations.¹⁴ They informed him:

"That time and opportunity must be taken as our cattle were running at pasture in the woods and we were living far and wide, east, west, south and north of each other; that we were not prepared to carry on a war and that no profit was to be derived from a war with the Indians."

Their remonstrance was of no avail, and on February 24, 1643, at midnight, eighty defenceless natives, men, women and children, were murdered in their sleep at Pavonia and forty at Corlear's Hook by Kieft's soldiers. Eleven tribes went on the war-path and wiped out practically every settlement between Rarariton Bay and the Connecticut River. Every settler on the Jer-

sey side of the Hudson River, who was unable to reach Fort Amsterdam, perished, except those of the Hackensack Valley who found refuge in the manor-house of de Vries, which escaped destruction.¹⁵

On April 23, 1643, the thoroughly frightened governor entered into a treaty of peace with Oratam, but this treaty did not prove a lasting one. On the night of September 17th, 1643, the headquarters of the van der Horst Colony was burned down in the new outbreak.¹⁶

In 1649 a pamphlet, entitled the "Breedden Raedt," was published in Antwerp, bitterly attacking the administrations of Kieft and Stuyvesant. It was in the form of interrogatories, and the following excerpt is of great interest to us:

"B. When in the year 1643, about shrovetide the savages were surprised by some other tribes (which were too powerful for them) and obliged to retreat they took refuge in our territory not suspecting that they had anything to fear from us. About the same time there was a feast at the house of Jan Janssen Damen at which the director in a significant toast communicated his intended attack on the savages to three inconsiderate boors, viz: Maryn Andriaenz, Jan Janz and Abraham Plancy who presented a (Pretended) request composed by Secretary Tienhoven to the governor, begging him to allow them to take revenge on the savages who killed the servant of Mr. v. Nederhorst, which crime had not been punished; this retribution being necessary to maintain the reputation of our nation.

K. Was that true?

B. I will tell you sir. A certain savage chief named Hacquinsacq who was considered as heedless even by the savages themselves, having been intoxicated with brandy by our men, being asked whether he was able to make a good use of his bow and arrow when in that state, in reply pointed his arrow at a certain man called Gerrit Yansz, a servant of the deceased Mr. van Nederhorst, whom he actually killed,



TERHUEN HOMESTEAD

River Street, Hackensack, N.J. Erected 1685

THE TER HUEN HOMESTEAD

Albert Ter Huen purchased the tract of land on which this building stands from Captain John Berry in 1685 and erected his home thereon. He was the son of Albert Albertse of Huyen, Holland, a lint weaver who settled in Flatbush, Long Island in 1677, where in 1685 he died.

Albert Ter Huen was prominent in civic affairs. He was a member of the New Jersey Legislature in 1696. He passed away in 1708.

Like the Terhune family on the River Road, Teaneck, the title to this property is still in the family.

asking whether he was able or not. To revenge this man's death several savages had been killed and our people were again in peace with them; so at that time the director ordered the massacre; the same tribe who had killed the deceased Mr. v. Nederhorst servant *had been visited some weeks before by the director himself*, and supplied with all necessities; this pretext was therefore a specious one." (italics mine)

The *Journal of the New Netherlands*, under the caption "The Cause of the New Netherland War," attempts to uphold Kieft and says that the Narraghansett Indians were trying to incite a general war, adding that:

"Those of Hackingsack, otherwise Achter Col, had with their neighbors killed an Englishman, a servant of David Petersen and a few days after shot dead in an equal treacherous manner a Dutchman who sat roofing a house in the Colonie of Myndert Myndertz."

The DEPARTURE of DE VRIES

David Petersen de Vries necessarily stands out in this narrative, for, not only is he recognized as "the most attractive and sympathetic figure of Manhattan's Dutch days," but his writings, preserved for posterity, present a word picture of what happened here three centuries ago. Few, if any, men of his time held and enjoyed the friendship of the natives to the same degree as he. That friendship not only insured the safety of the settlers in the Hackensack Valley but played an important part in the settlement of Hackensack itself.

Mrs. van Rensselaer pays him this beautiful tribute:

"Against the dark background of terror, cruelty and suffering, the figure of Captain de Vries stands out brightly. He did not lose Courage, his patience or his sympathy with the distressed white men on one hand and the exasperated savages on the other. . . . They trusted de Vries, they said, because they had never heard a lie from him and this was true

THREE HUNDRED YEARS

of very few other white men. As a result of his wise and gentle counsels, treaties of peace were signed in the midsummer of 1643 with the Long Island and Westchester tribes, the Hackensack and the Tappans."

Unable to remain in the atmosphere of cruelty, corruption and deceit which surrounded Kieft and his unscrupulous associates, Captain de Vries in 1644 departed from New Amsterdam: "I told him (Kieft) that this murder which he had committed was so much innocent blood, that it would yet be avenged upon him, so I left him."

De Vries never returned to America, but left his memoirs which have lived after him.

In August 1647, William Kieft, on his way home to Holland, having been succeeded by Peter Stuyvesant, was drowned when the *Princess*, the ship on which he sailed, foundered off the coast of Wales.

The FIRST COURT is ESTABLISHED

In 1650, Yonkeer Henrick Vander Cappellen, Baron of Essels and Hasselt, and closely connected with the States-General, founded what was probably the first Holland-American line of merchantmen.

In that year Captain Adriaen Post, progenitor of the Post family of Passaic, arrived at New Amsterdam in one of the Baron's ships. Captain Post, represented the Baron, who like the other wealthy Dutch merchants, remained in Holland. In 1655 the Baron apparently acquired territory north and west of the Pauw settlements, for in that year he created a court for the trial of disputes between the natives and settlers at "*Espatin in the vicinity of Hackensack.*" *Espatin* sometimes called *Hospating* was located approximately two and one half miles south of what is now Ridgefield Park. At this time the Vander Horst Colony continued to thrive, for its existence was duly recognized by the Am-



THE COURT HOUSE BELL

THE COURT HOUSE BELL

The first Bergen County Court House was erected in 1714 and when it had outlived its usefulness a new court house was erected on the site of the old opposite the Church on the Green in 1733.

On September 1, 1736, *His Majestey's Justices and Freeholders* "unanimously Agreed that there Should Be Raised and Leveyed On the Inhabitance of the County the Sum of Fifteen Pounds for the Use to Hang a Bell In the Said County Court House.

"Farther agreed that the Managers for Said County Should go Unto New York and Seek for a Bell and If they can find One for Theyr Use to Buy it and If Not to Apply to Mr. John Schuyler to Send to England for One."

In 1780 the Court House was destroyed in the "Hessian Raid" to be hung again in 1786 in the temporary building on Main Street. In 1819 it came to its old site on the Green to remain until 1892 when it was presented to the Bergen County Historical Society.

sterdam Chamber of the West India Company as evidenced by the following document:

Claim of Cornelis van Werckhoven to a grant of two colonies.

“The Directors of the Incorporated West-India Company, Department of Amsterdam, to All who shall see this or hear it read, Greeting! Know ye, that they have consented and authorized, as they herewith consent and authorize his Honor Cornelis van Werckhoven, Councillor of the municipality and Ex-Schepen of the City of Utrecht, that he may, as Patroon, establish a Colony in New Netherland, beginning at the Nevesinck and stretching northward to near the Colony of the Lord of Nederhorst, all subject to the conditions and conform to the rules, lately made by the Company and submitted to their High: Might; the Lords-States-General for approval. . . . Thus done at the meeting in Amsterdam the 7th November 1651.”

Under the same date in the same form as above, Cornelis van Werckhoven was granted a colony “beginning at Tappan, near the Colony of van Nederhorst and stretching northward through the Highlands.” This grant was later abrogated as the amended Exemptions allowed only four miles on one side of a navigable stream or two miles on both sides thereof. On December 13, 1651, it was resolved to grant no more colonies.

BERGEN COUNTY

In 1664, the Province of the New Netherlands passed out of existence and the Province of New Jersey was created by the English as a colony later to be divided into the provinces of East and West New Jersey. On November 5, 1675, the General Assembly of the Province passed the following Act creating County Courts:

“It is enacted by this Assembly that there be two of the aforesaid courts kept yearly in each respective county, viz: Ber-

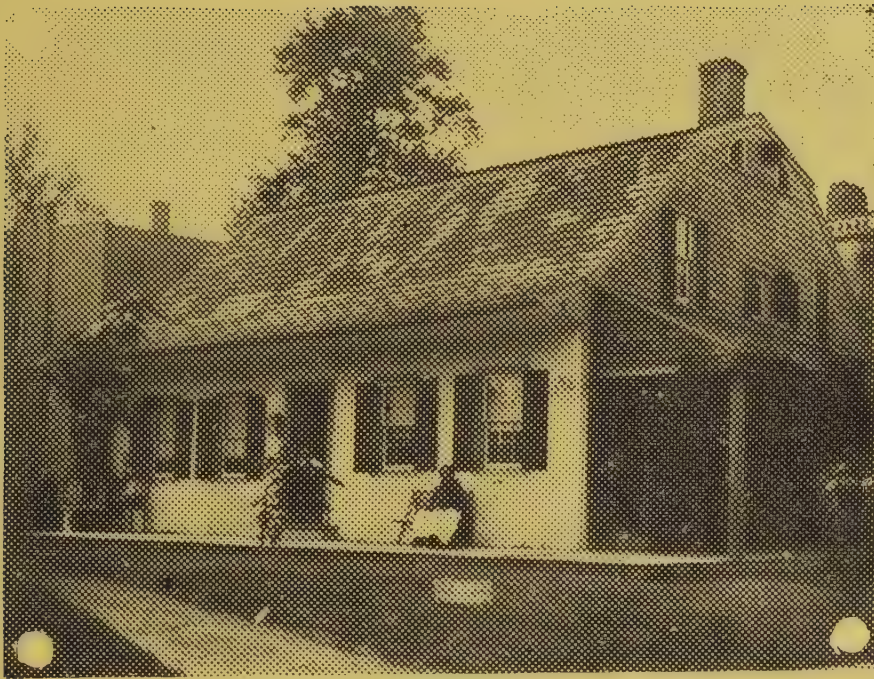
gen and the adjacent plantations about them to be a county and to have two courts a year."

Where the boundaries of this County of Bergen began and ended, no one will ever know, but the county apparently embraced all the settlements lying between the Hudson and Passaic rivers. A session of this court, says Judge Van Valen in his History of Bergen County, was held near the site of the present Bergen County Court House on the Green in Hackensack. In 1682 the General Assembly created counties by boundaries, and the territory between the Hudson and the Hackensack Rivers remained in Bergen County, and the territory west of the Hackensack River, in which the village of Hackensack was located, was annexed to the newly created Essex County. From 1682 to 1693 there were no subdivisions in the counties. During this period, and on May 14, 1688, the General Assembly created two courts for the Trial of Small Causes to be held monthly, one at the house of Lawrence Andriss, at *New Hackensack*, and one at the house of Dr. Johannes on the Hackensack River.¹⁷

Lawrence Andriss was Lawrence Andriessen, progenitor of the van Buskirk family. In 1681 he purchased 1076 acres, the northerly boundary of which formed the southerly boundary of the lands of David des Marest acquired by him from the Tappan Indians in 1677, and the westerly boundary was the Hackensack River.

Lawrence Andriessen's house, it is said, was located in 1681 on the southwest corner of the present Liberty Road and River Road, Teaneck. At a later date he located further east on the Liberty Road. In 1704 he gave a tract of land lying south of his house, between the River Road and the Hackensack River at the foot of the present Maitland Avenue, Teaneck, to the congregation of the Dutch Lutheran Church. The site is marked by a granite marker placed there by the Bergen County Historical Society.

Dr. Johannes' house was located on the west side of the Hackensack River and on the east side of the present Hudson



THE VANDER BEEK HOMESTEAD
Main Street, Hackensack, N.J. Erected 1716
(Site of N.J. Bell Telephone Co.)

PAULUS VANDER BEEK

Paulus Vander Beek (Vanderbeck) arrived in New Amsterdam in 1658 from Holland. His grandson Paulus settled in Hackensack in 1708, purchasing a large tract of land between the Hackensack and Saddle Rivers, which gave him a frontage of 450 feet on the east side of Main Street and 650 feet on the west side thereof in the neighborhood of Salem Street. The purchase price paid to Jan Berdan is said to have been £90, the value of the land today is approximately \$2,200,000.

Street, Hackensack, below the "Green." His name was Dr. Johannes van Imburgh, progenitor of the van Emburgh family. (The habit of dropping surnames in the early days has caused endless confusion in the tracing of family history and makes the task of the genealogist a heart-breaking one today.)

In 1668, Captain Nicholas Verlett and Samuel Edsall, "of the corporation of Bergen." purchased 1872 acres between the Overpeck and the Hudson River and extending north two and one half miles from *Espatin* to *Aquapock* (Overpeck)!

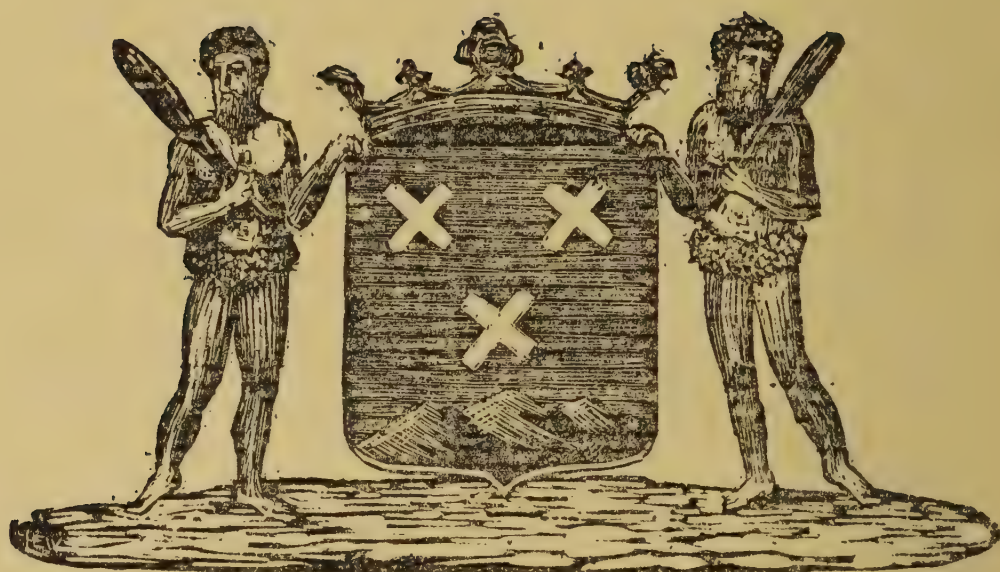
After the lapse of many years, the name Edsall appears in various legal instruments in which the bearer of the name is described as living in the *English Neighborhood*, now Leonia.

On June 24, 1669, Governor Carteret by patent confirmed Oratam's gift to Sarah Kierstede of a *neck* of land containing 2120 acres, between the *Overpacks* Creek and *Hackingsack* River. On June 17, 1685, Henrick Jorisen Brinkerhoff purchased a large tract of this land which is described as lying in *Hackensack Neck*. On January 13, 1687, Zuriam Westervelt purchased a tract in the same neighborhood. Both of these men belonged to the first congregation of the Dutch Reformed Church of Hackensack, organized in 1686.

In 1669, the Vander Horst Colony passed into the hands of two English officers from the island of Barbadoes in the West Indies. One of them, Captain William Sandford, representing Major Nathaniel Kingsland, purchased the lower portion of the old colony, extending northward some nine miles from the junction of the Hackensack and Passaic Rivers; while Captain John Berry purchased the northern portion, terminating at Cole's Brook, the present northern boundary of the city of Hackensack.

When, in 1693, the Colonial Assembly created townships, these two tracts of land became the township of New Barbadoes. Thus the original Vander Horst Colony became the township of New Barbadoes, and by legislative Act became a part of Essex County. In 1709 the legislature corrected an obvious error and New Barbadoes Township became a part of Bergen County.¹⁸

THREE HUNDRED YEARS





THE WESTERVELT-LOZIER HOUSE
Main and Ward Streets - Hackensack, New Jersey

THE WESTERVELT-LOZIER HOUSE

On September 10th, 1780, the remains of General Enoch Poor were brought to this building from General Lafayette's camp at Kinderkamack (Oradell), where the funeral services were held. The cortege consisting of three regiments of the general's Light Infantry and a troop of Light Horse Harry Lee's cavalry passed down Main Street to the grave-yard of the Church-on-the-Green where the remains were interred. In the cortege were General Washington, Generals Lafayette, Greene, Sterling, St. Clair and many other general officers.

When Lafayette visited America in 1845 he came to Hackensack to lay a wreath on his friend's grave. Before he departed he left a sum of money with the custodian of the Court House for the care of the grave.

HACKENSACK

Three hundred years have passed into Eternity since the day Captain Petersen de Vries roamed thru the woods behind his house on the outskirts of *Acking-sack*. He carried his gun, not as a protection against the natives who were his friends, but against wolves and panthers which were about in great numbers.

Houses and Barns were being erected in the Vander Horst Colony, which was destined to survive both the ravages of War and Time and to become, and for many years to remain, the most important community in Northern New Jersey.

When, in 1685, the congregation of the Dutch Reformed Church of Hackensack was organized, the register contained thirty-nine names. At the same time the French Huguenot congregation north of New Bridge numbered some twenty and the Dutch Lutheran congregation at New Bridge had approximately the same number of communicants in 1704, when the Rev. Justus Falkner preached to them in the barn of Cornelius van Buskirk.

In 1709 the Colonial Assembly by creating the new Bergen County and making the village of Hackensack the county-seat, recognized its importance as a commercial center, which the passing years have not dimmed.



Hackensack, 1780

Opposite page -

Seal of Bergen Op-Zoon, Holland, from which Old Bergen was named

THREE HUNDRED YEARS

Today county seats have lost the glamor of the days when our country was still young, but the habit formed in those days still persists, for today Bergen County comes to Hackensack as naturally as it did two hundred and fifty years ago. Hackensack, then as now, provided the necessities of life, amusement, legal, medical and dental attention. In its taverns, kept by men prominent in public life, the political questions affecting the county were discussed and decided. Industries, save for the few that catered to the immediate wants of the people, were never encouraged.

Colonial Hackensack, housed in its fine red sandstone homes, was proud of its well kept shops and the position it occupied in the affairs of the State of New Jersey, for the backbone of the nation lay in the rural communities and Hackensack was the hub of a great agricultural area. Proud also was it of its culture, for from the earliest days it was recognized as a seat of learning. On the northwest corner of the present Warren and Main Streets stood the Washington Institute, conducted by Peter Wilson, LL.D., a professor of Kings College (now Columbia). In 1767 the legislature met to select a site for Queens College (now Rutgers). Hackensack and New Brunswick survived the elimination test and the vote resulted in a tie, Dr. Peter Wilson, member from Bergen County, not voting, because he resided in Hackensack. The Governor decided in favor of New Brunswick.

When the great conflict for Independence came, Hackensack became the refuge of the demoralized Continental Army as it fled before the overwhelming British forces. Here in the home of Peter Zabriskie on the Green, Washington was quartered from November 14, 1776, to November 20, when his memorable retreat across the "Jerseys" began -- a retreat that made history. The home of Peter Zabriskie, who was Chairman of the Bergen County Board of Justices and Chosen Freeholders, is called the "Mansion House" and still stands on the "Green." Here also stands the statue of General Enoch Poor, one of Washington's most Brilliant officers, who died in September, 1780, and was buried in the churchyard of the Dutch Reformed Church on



THE WASHINGTON INSTITUTE
Main and Warren Streets - Hackensack, N.J.
Conducted by Dr. Peter Wilson, 1768

THE WASHINGTON INSTITUTE

This building was erected on the northwest corner of Main and Warren Streets, Hackensack, in 1768 for the purpose of an academy.

On February 22d, 1769, Peter Wilson announced: "that a large and commodious institution of learning has been erected and that Peter Zabriskie Esq., and other residents have volunteered to assist the teachers in the preservation of the morals of the youth and in checking the first symptoms of vice."

Peter Wilson at this time was a member of the Colonial Assembly and in 1784 under the direction of the legislature compiled a volume of laws of New Jersey.

He became a professor of Latin and Greek in Columbia College, which conferred the degree of Doctor of Laws upon him.

He died at the age of 79 years in 1825 and was buried in the graveyard of the Church on the Green, Hackensack.

the "Green" in the presence of Washington, Lafayette, and other general officers.

Post-Revolutionary years found Hackensack holding its position as the business center of Bergen County. Here were laid the keels of the "Wind-jammers of the Hackensack," a fleet that plied between Hackensack and New York long after the tracks of the two railroads that bisect the city were laid. Middle-aged men of today still remember the "Wesley Stoney," the fastest tug on the Hudson River, owned by Mr. Stoney of local fame. Before the railroads came, the fast New York to Albany stage line, carrying passengers and mail, made Hackensack one of its principal stops, for its noted owner, Albert G. Doremus, lived in a beautiful stone house on Main Street near Bergen Street. Upon his death in 1854, his son Richard ran the line until the service was discontinued.

The early Dutch settlers found that clay from the banks of the Hackensack River had been used by the natives in the moulding of pottery--thus the famous Wolfkiel Pottery came into existence. They also found other uses for this clay. It provided mortar for their stone dwellings and the first coat of their plastered walls. They also discovered that they could make bricks as good as the imported Holland brick. For years cargoes of Hackensack bricks sailed down the Hackensack River and entered the waterways of the nation. Industry, catering to the needs of the people, crept in, but essentially Hackensack remained and still is a residential city.

Politically, Hackensack was a village lying in the Township of New Barbadoes. On March 14, 1856, an Improvement Commission was created by the Legislature to improve the sidewalks of said "village." By supplemental acts of the Legislature, additional powers were granted the said Improvement Commission until 1868 when it was made the governing body. Gradually the nine townships of Bergen County were split up into smaller townships and boroughs, until there was very little left of New Barbadoes Township. On March 30, 1896, the Legislature enacted

that "the boundaries of the Hackensack Improvement Commission shall be and the same are hereby extended so as to be coextensive with the boundaries of the Township of New Barbadoes." The Hackensack Improvement Commission, composed of a Mayor, a Commissioner-at-large, and a Commissioner from each of its five wards, governed Hackensack until 1933, when by popular vote the form of government was changed to a City Manager form of government.

HACKENSACK TOWNSHIP

When the General Assembly of the Province of East New Jersey finally defined the boundaries of Bergen County in 1682 it failed to create any subdivisions. By the Act of 1692 (amended October 1693) the township of Bergen (now Hudson County) and the township of Hackensack were created. The latter embraced all of what is now Bergen County east of the Hackensack River and the Pascack Creek.

The first break in the township of Hackensack came in 1775 when Harrington Township was created, followed by the creation of Washington Township in 1836, then Ridgefield Township, Palisades Township and Englewood Township in 1872. Overpeck Township (Ridgefield Park) came into existence in 1892; Teaneck Township came out of Englewood Township in 1895, and Bogota Boro out of Ridgefield Township in 1894.

Thus we find by the end of the 19th century the Township of Hackensack broken up into the foregoing townships. With the dawn of the 20th century a number of these townships were broken up into boroughs.

The neck of land lying between the Hackensack River and the Overpeck Creek (often called Overpeck, Oversack, Tantaqua, Aquapock and English Creek) is called *Hackensack Neck* in ancient deeds and the three communities lying within its bounds: Ridgefield Park, Teaneck and Bogota were settled by the earliest pioneers. Ridgefield Park often called *Old Hackensack* pays



THE ZABRISKIE - STEUBEN HOUSE
New Bridge, North Hackensack, New Jersey
Erected 1739

THE ZABRISKIE - STEUBEN HOUSE

The first occupant of this dwelling, John Zabriskie Jr., was baptised in the Church on the Green, Hackensack, on August 5, 1716, and brought his bride here in 1739.

His son, John Zabriskie Jr., was born here September 3, 1741 and married in 1764. He was one of Bergen County's most prominent citizens up to the Revolutionary War.

Zabriskie was a royalist and although his property was confiscated for this reason he had the courage to return after the war and purchase the property from Baron Steuben for £1200.

His descendants held important public offices in Bergen County thereafter.

This building is a fine specimen of Dutch Colonial architecture. The gambrel roof with a short shallow upper slope and long, sweeping lower slope was developed in Bergen County.

THREE HUNDRED YEARS

tribute to its Pioneer Henrick Jorisse Brinckerhoff and Bogota to Johannes Winkelman the agent of the Lord Neder Horst who founded the Vanderhorst Colony. Teaneck modestly calls your attention to the fact that Oratam was born at the foot of Fyke's Lane in 1577,

It is uncertain when the word *Teaneck* was first used.¹⁹ Early deeds fail to make any reference to the name. Robert Erskine, Surveyor General of the Continental Army, on a map prepared by him in 1780, shows *Tea Neck* considerably south of the Teaneck of today. Yet when the Continental Army came into Bergen County in the summer of 1780, General Headquarters were opened by Washington in the Liberty Pole Tavern (Englewood) and all orders issued therefrom bore the caption: "*Headquarters Tea Neck.*" It is certain that the territory lying between *Schraalenburgh* (Dumont) and the *English Neighborhood* (Leonia) while it had no legal entity, was generally known as Tea Neck. The fact that the Township of Teaneck was not created until 1895 is due to the decision of William Walter Phelps to make Teaneck his permanent home in 1865. He purchased the old Garrit Brinckerhoff homestead on the Teaneck Ridge (now Teaneck Road) and year after year added to his holdings so that by the year 1878 he and his Palisade Land Company owned some 4,000 acres extending to the top of the Palisades and northerly to Alpine. Teaneck and the Phelps Estate became synonymous, so when the township of Englewood was formed in 1872, Mr. Phelps supported the proposal to name it after the well known resident, Mr. John Engle.²⁰

In 1875 a noted writer commented on the change which had taken place since the opening of the Northern Railroad in 1859. Writing about this condition, which existed until recent years, he says:

"Less than twenty years ago the section of country lying along the western base of the Palisade Ridge, from Bergen N.J. to Tappan New York, was but little more than a solitary waste. True there were scattered settlements, good

THREE HUNDRED YEARS

farms here and there, and wagon roads connecting them with New York markets."

Farms were few and far between, because the pioneers settled beside streams, which provided their cattle with water and permitted the operation of grist and saw mills. One of the earliest permanent settlers was Lawrence Andriessen, progenitor of the Van Buskirk family whose lands formed the southern boundary of the Demarest patent, which today is the Liberty Road. The Demarest family settled two miles north of Andriessen in 1678 and between 1685 and 1690 Henrick Jorisse Brinkerhoff built his home on the Hackensack River in what today is Ridgefield Park. His deed described the location as *Hackensack Neck*. He and his family called the place *Old Hackensack*. About the same time Zurian Westervelt purchased a tract of land north of Brinkerhoff and in 1735 a son of Henrick Brinkerhoff built his home near Fyke's Lane on the Teaneck Road, now owned by the Demarest family. On the River Road we find many pre-revolutionary homes, the Terhune homestead (still in the family); the Zabriskie Kipp (now Cadmus) homestead; the Ackerman (now Joseph Kinzley) homestead and the de Veaux or de Voe (now Andreas) homestead. But it is not the early pioneers to whom we must give credit for the Englewood and Teaneck of today -- but to one man -- *Bergen County's Forgotten Man* -- William Walter Phelps!²¹

NEW BRIDGE

The community called *New Bridge*, embracing the river front of North Hackensack, the river front of the southerly end of New Milford Boro and the northern end of Teaneck Township was the most important shipping point on the Hackensack River from the earliest days and remained so until the railroads came.

The bridge which spans the river at this point and from which the community received its name, was called the *New*



THE NEW BRIDGE TAVERN
New Bridge, New Milford Boro, New Jersey
Erected 1741

THE NEW BRIDGE TAVERN

The west wing of this old Tavern was erected between 1739
and 1741.

In 1766 Peter Demarest was its proprietor and in 1807 Lucas
van Buskirk was the tavern keeper.

Here the foot-warmers were filled with live charcoal for the
long trip to Paulus Hook, the passengers supplied with the
necessaries of life and the horses baited.

The story of the old inn has yet to be written. The tide of war
drifted in and out of New Bridge for five years. It saw the be-
ginning of the war when on November 20th Washington led
his ragged army past its door and across the bridge out of the
clutches of Cornwallis and it saw the beginning of the end
when in 1781 a part of Rochambeau's army passed an its way
to Yorktown.

That interesting old friend of my boy-hood, Cornelius Banta
once told me how he and his companions in 1835 peeked thru
the windows of the old tavern and watched the *jiggers* (men
dancing a jig) on the bar-room floor, and that when he grew
up he could jig any New Yorker *off his feet!*

Bridge to distinguish it from the older bridge two miles up the river. It was built on piles driven into the river bed, cross-sectioned and the floor laid over it. Tradition tells us that a rude bridge spanned the river at this point as early as 1741, built by menfolk of the Zabriskie, van Buskirk, Cole and Demarest families. The Freeholders erected the first draw bridge prior to 1757. The draw was a *slide* draw, the floor of the easterly end being drawn across the floor of the bridge, later it was converted into a *lift* bridge and finally into the present type. In 1757 the Freeholders directed that *stocks* be erected "*near the New Bridge*" which seems to be the earliest recorded reference to it. In 1812 a new draw was put in and in 1888 the present iron bridge replaced the wooden one. During the Revolution it was often referred to as "*Hackensack Bridge*" being located at the northerly end of the village of Hackensack.

Many prominent families of Bergen County lived in this neighborhood during colonial days: the Demarest, van Voorhis, van Buskirk, Banta, Cole and Zabriskie families. In addition to the French Huguenot families we find the Dutch Lutherans had erected a fine stone church and parsonage on land donated by Lourance van Buskirk in 1712. Hard by, the Rev. Stephanus Voorhis and Francis Barber, both Princeton graduates, conducted a fine seminary or Latin school in competition with Dr. Peter Wilson's Academy in Hackensack. In 1766 we find their advertisement in the New York Gazette, calling attention to the fact that: "*the learned languages are taught with care and accuracy and youth qualified to enter any American College.*"

In 1739 John Zabriskie erected his home on the westerly bank of the river facing the present bridge. By 1751 this home had grown into a fine manse, sixty feet long and thirty feet wide, having been enlarged three times since its erection. His great grist mill, operated by the tide, flowing in and out of Cole's Brook, a dock over one hundred feet long to which several schooners were warped, proclaimed him to be the prosperous merchant he was, for John Zabriskie conducted the largest trading station on

the river, building up an important community in this section.

On May 13, 1772, the Bergen County Board of Justices and Freeholders appointed John Zabriskie Jr., Collector of Taxes of Bergen County, which office he held until March 15, 1776, when the Board passed the following significant resolution:

“Ordered that Jacobus I. Demarest at the Old Bridge, shall be County Collector in the room of John Zabriskie, late County Collector.”

John Zabriskie, loyal to his Majesty's government, lost his office and his belongings, which were confiscated by the State of New Jersey.

On December 23, 1783 the New Jersey Legislature *“in consideration of the signal services by him rendered to the United States of America”* conveyed the Zabriskie estate to Major-General Baron Steuben, with the provision that he occupy the same in person. This the Baron declined to do and it was not until September 5, 1788 that he obtained a title free from all restrictions, whereupon he conveyed the property to its former owner for £1200

The question is often asked why the New Jersey Legislature insisted that the Baron reside here, when more desirable places could have been placed at his disposal. The question is easily answered. The legislature was influenced by the historic background of its choice. This bridge, the first above Newark Bay, was the focal point of the Hudson River campaigns, both armies crossed and re-crossed it during the war. The Continental Army in its retreat from Fort Lee was led across this bridge by Washington himself. Had Cornwallis been led by a Tory, instead of following an erroneous British war map, his 8,000 Hessians could have reached the New Bridge long before Greene's ragged host reached the Teaneck Ridge where General Greene turned his troops over to the Commander-in-chief, and by a simple flanking movement the war would have ended at the New Bridge.

History seldom records the fact that the crossing of the Delaware in December 1776, *was made possible by the safe crossing of the Hackensack a month previous.*



THE SAMUEL DEMAREST HOMESTEAD

THE SAMUEL DEMAREST HOMESTEAD

Samuel Demarest was born at Mannheim in 1653. He married Marie, daughter of Simon Dreuns, on August 11th, 1678, the year the Demarest family moved from New Haarlem to Bergen County. Samuel brought his bride to this home, where she bore him eleven children:

His home overlooks the Hackensack River, and when the Demarest Memorial Foundation has been incorporated, it proposes to restore the homestead with its barn, corn-crib, smoke-house, outside Dutch oven, well and sweep, hay-rick, dove-cots etc., faithful to the husbandry of those who inhabited the dwelling.

Samuel Demarest died in 1728, proud of having given his daughters Magdalena, Jacomina, Judith, Sarah, Rachael and Susanna in marriage to Cornelius Epke Banta, Cornelius van Hoorn, Peter du Rij (Durie), John Westervelt, Jacobus Peek and Benjamin van Boskerk, respectively.

OLD BRIDGE

Prior to 1724 the Hackensack River was crossed by several ferries, the principal ones being *Douw's Ferry* below Secaucus, *Little Ferry* and *Demarest landing* (River Edge). The erection of the Schraalenburgh church in 1724, which was attended by many residents on the west side of the Hackensack River, created a demand for safer and quicker transportation. In the northern section of the county the river was crossed at certain *fords* which in the winter and in early spring were hazardous. Accordingly Demarest Landing was selected by the Board of Freeholders for the first bridge, which became known as *Old Bridge*, when a few years later the *New Bridge*, two miles down stream was constructed. Demarest Landing was one of the important shipping points to New York City prior to the Revolution. The Forges at Ringwood delivered large quantities of iron to the Landing from whence it was shipped to England by way of New York City.

Demarest Landing was named after the celebrated French Huguenot, David des Marest, who purchased a large tract of land from the Tappan Indians in 1677 and erected his home and *Great Mill* on the easterly bank of the river. He later moved across the river to higher ground near his son Jean. On the bend of the old Schraalenburgh Road a short distance east of the bridge stands the home of David Demarest Jr., which is an object of great interest to the wayfarer. A mile south on the banks of the river stands the home of his son Samuel, recognized as one of the oldest buildings in northern New Jersey.

Old Bridge lost its importance as the settlement around the New Bridge grew into a thriving community. Today it is Old Bridge which is the thriving community.

The Old Bridge was destroyed toward the end of the Revolutionary war and in the minutes of the Board of Freeholders we find the following under date of March 22, 1783:

“The Board of Justices and Freeholders Agreeable to Summons Met at the House of Samuel Campbell near the place

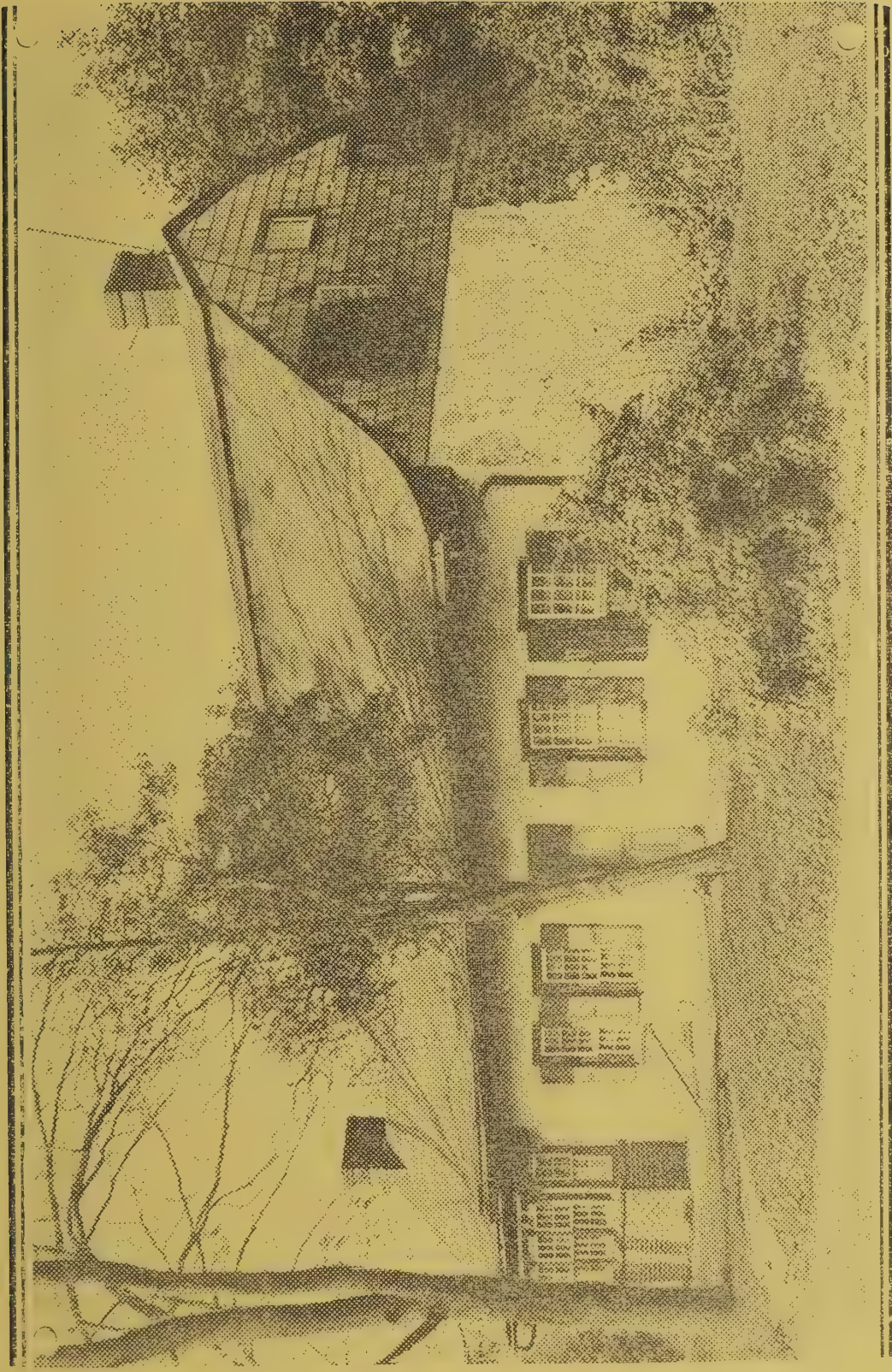
where the Old Bridge formerly stood and a petition from Sundry of the Inhabitants living near Said place being laid before the Board requesting to have a bridge built where the Old Bridge formerly stood. The Board after taking same into consideration Agreed to leave it for further Consideration till the 8th of April next."

Accordingly on April 8th, 1783, Arent Cooper was engaged to employ men to rebuild the bridge and on May 12th, 1784, he was allowed the sum of £25, 14 shillings and 2 pence *proc. mon-*ey by the Board for work, labor and services in rebuilding the bridge.

The earliest Dutch settlers discovered the value of the clay banks of the Hackensack River, not only for the making of mortar to bind the red sand stones of their homes, as plaster for their walls and ceilings and linings for their chimneys, but for the manufacture of pottery. In 1830 a Pennsylvania Dutchman, John Wolfkiel, came to Old Bridge and for over thirty years made pottery there, which today is prized by Collectors. In the museum of the Bergen County Historical Society will be found fine specimens of his early slip decorative pottery.

The HUGUENOTS

It was in the year of our Lord, 1676, when David des Marest, former member of the New Netherland Council from Staten Island and now a prominent citizen of the village of New Haarlem, became involved in a controversy with the authorities over a matter of taxation. All residents of New Haarlem were being taxed to pay the salary past and present of the parish clerk of the Dutch Reformed Church. Having become a member of the newly organized French Church, David des Marest refused to pay this tax. Conferring with his French neighbors, la Rue, du Rij, de Veaux, Tiebout and his three stalwart sons and the Rev. Pierre Daille, they decided to establish a French colony beyond that great mountain across Hudson's River.



DAVID DEMAREST, JR. HOMESTEAD

East River Edge, New Milford Boro, N.J.

Erected 1678-1681

DAVID DEMAREST JR.

David des Marest, Sr., was the father of six children. The second and fifth child died in infancy. David was the third child and was born at Mannheim in the Palatinate in 1652. He married Rachael Cresson April 4th, 1675, and there were 12 children by this marriage. Their fifth child, Jacobus was born in this house in 1681, and in 1707 Jacobus brought his bride Lea, daughter of Peter de Groot, to this home.

Their descendants lived here for many years.

David Demarest died here in 1691.

THREE HUNDRED YEARS

Day after day he watched the sun sink behind the Palisades and mused over the story so often related among the Huguenots on Staten Island--the island once owned by Captain Petersen de Vries, who in 1639 purchased thirty-one morgens (62 acres) of maize land on the Acking-sack River from the Tappan Indians. Yes, everyone in New Amsterdam remembered this valiant sea-captain who had gone back to Holland because of Kieft's brutality. Yes, old burghers remembered his fine manor-house in Vriesendael. This place was worth investigating. The Indians had been at peace with the settlers for many years and old Chief Hans of the Hackensack Indians for a few blankets would provide the necessary guides and canoes. Plans were quickly made and consummated and David des Marest, his sons and neighbors were soon gliding over the waters of the Kill von Kull into Newark Bay and then up the Hackensack River to the land of their dreams. "Yes," said old Abe Demarest to the author some forty years ago, as he slowly opened his jack-knife and cut off a *chaw* of *Virginia leaf* and deliberately tucked it away in the hollow of his cheek, "my great-grand pappy often said that the first Demarest who came here found *fallow* ground and ruins of buildings."

Two hundred and sixty-four years have passed since these pioneers were greeted by the Tappan Indians and an agreement for the sale and purchase of the *Demarest Patent* made. In the East wall of the Church on the Green is imbedded the Demarest heart-stone and on the Demarest escutcheon is engraved *Ex Fide Vivo* (By Faith I Live) and today the Demarest Family Association, of which the author is the Life Vice-President, is carrying on. In 1939 its President Mr. Hiram B. Demarest Blauvelt of Oradell, N.J. acquired title to the Samuel Demarest homestead including the *Little French Cemetery*, individually carrying out one of the purposes of the association. An 11th generation descendant from David des Marest he plans the incorporation of the Demarest Memorial Foundation to take over and

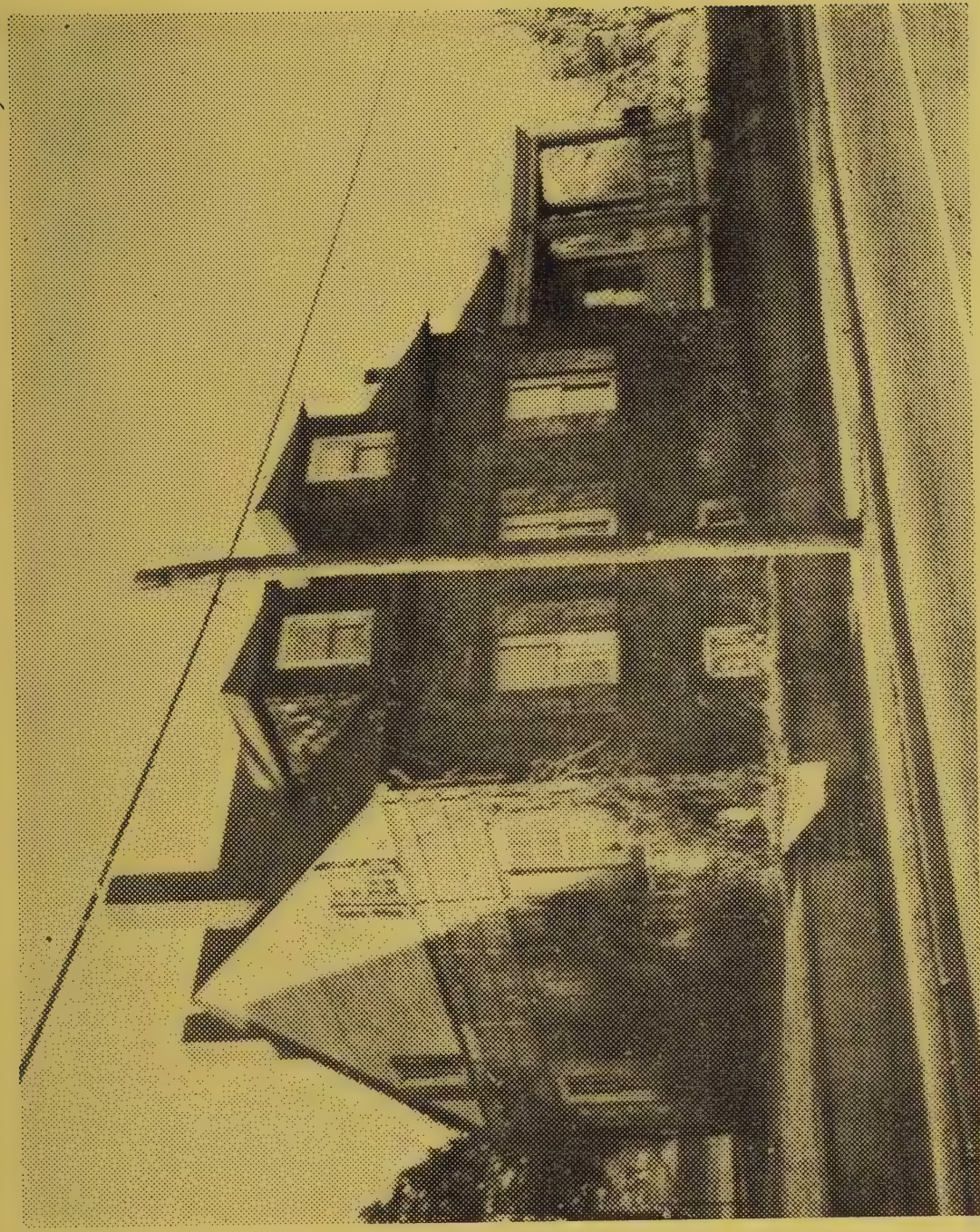


manage the property as well as to restore it as a replica of a farm of the colonial period and maintaining the building as a museum of antiques, heir-looms, handicraft, furniture, glassware, pewter, records and deeds to be donated by members of Demarest families and other old families of Bergen County. Eventually this ancient land-mark will be one of the most interesting historic sites in New Jersey.

The CONTINENTAL ARMY MOVES into the HACKENSACK VALLEY

On July 31, 1780, General Headquarters at Peekskill issued orders directing the army to cross the Hudson at Verplank's Crossing, and that the Jersey Camp be moved to Haverstraw. On August 6th the main command crossed the river to Haverstraw and the combined forces marched to Clarkstown on the 7th; on the 8th the army reached Orangetown and Tappan where it remained until August 23rd, when it moved into Bergen County in two divisions: the right wing following the Schraalenburgh (Washington Ave.) Road and the left wing the Closter Road, uniting near the *Liberty Pole*, Englewood, (then called *Tee Neck*) Washington took quarters in the Liberty Pole Tavern, from which *General Orders* were issued, under the the caption "Headquarters, August 23, 1780, Tea Neck." With Washington were his *aide-de-camp* Major Alexander Hamilton and his Quartermaster General, Maj. Gen. Nathaniel Greene. There were six divisional commanders: Major Generals Howe, McDougal, St. Clair, Steuben, Sterling and Lafayette. These divisions were made up of New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire brigades, commanded by Brigadier Generals Hand, Stark, Nixon, Poor, Patterson, Wayne, Ewing, Huntington, Clinton and Glover. Lafayette's command included a park of Artillery and Major Henry Lee's (*Light Horse Harry Lee*) command of *Light Horse*.²²

On September 4th the army broke camp and crossed the



KIPP HOUSE
Kinderkamack Road, North Hackensack, N.J.
Pre-Revolutionary

THE KIPP HOUSE

Major General Lord Stirling of the Continental Army was quartered here from September 4th to September 20th, 1780.

Howland Avenue leading from the Kinderkamack Road westward to the Spring Valley Road was one of the principal roads leading to the Paramus Camp.

On August 19th, 1779, General Stirling was quartered in the Steuben house at the New Bridge, he having picketted the River Road to secure Major Lee's retreat from Paulus Hook. On September 28th, 1779, he received the thanks of Congress "for the judicious measures taken by you to forward the enterprise against Powles Hook and to secure the Retreat of the Party."

Hackensack River by the *New Bridge* and went into camp along the Hackensack River and the Kinderkamack Road between North Hackensack and Oradell. The territory lying between the Kinderkamack Road and the Hackensack River in the present Borough of River Edge was called: *Steenraapie*. General Headquarters were opened in the Steuben House, orders of the day being issued under the caption: *Headquarters Steenropia*. The nine rooms and large open attic provided quarters not only for the Commander-in-chief, but for Generals Greene and Steuben and their staffs. On the Kinderkamack Road at the foot of Howland Avenue, which was called the *Paramus Road*, being the main road from the New Bridge to the Paramus camp, stands the Kipp House, where General Stirling was quartered.

The army was under canvass and we find reports of court-martials held daily in the *marquees* of the various divisions, many cases going back several months. The army was cleaning house preparatory to the Commander-in-chief's trip to Hartford, Conn. to meet the French officers. On the 17th Major General Greene announced to the officers that the Commander-in-chief would be absent from the army for a few days, and for all commands to be watchful in case the enemy learned of his departure. He invited the "old officers of the day" to dine with him during the absence of the Commander-in-chief.

On the 19th at 10 a.m. the army broke camp under orders to proceed to *Orangetown*. As each division formed in line on the Kinderkamack Road, the line stretched from Cole's Brook, North Hackensack nearly to Westwood. Lafayette's Light Infantry and Light Horse, the vanguard of the army led the way up the Kinderkamack Road to Orangetown.

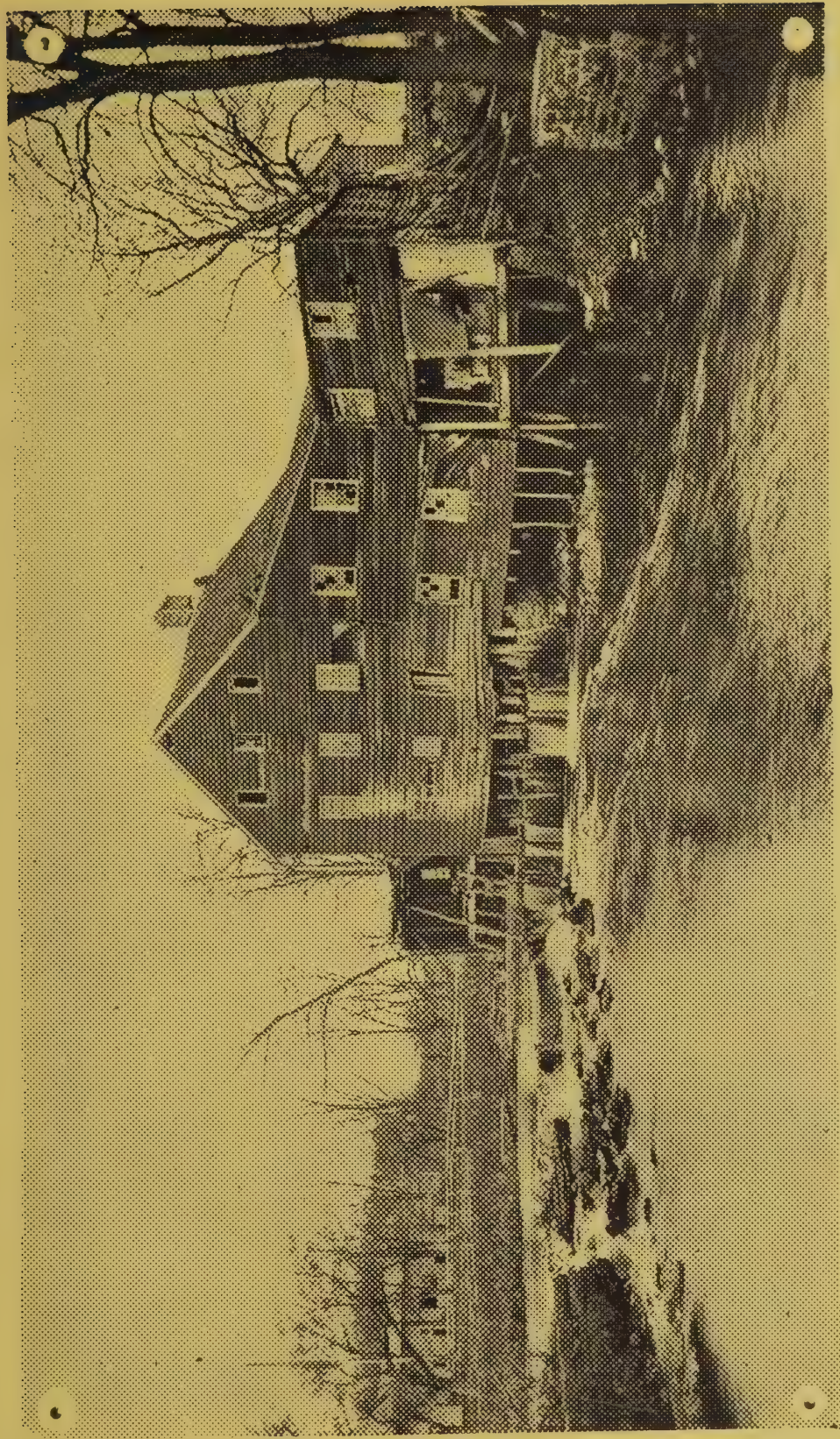
In September 1778, just two years prior to the happening of the events hereinabove narrated, a gay young British officer, Aide-de-camp to Lieut. Gen. Sir Charles Gray, known as *No-flint-Gray*, cantered up this same highway with the expedition which General Gray was leading in a surprise attack against 117 Virginia Light Dragoons under Colonel George Baylor, who

were quartered in several houses and barns in Harrington (now Riverdale). Caught asleep just before day-break Baylor's command was mercilessly bayoneted, the commander himself receiving a dangerous but not fatal wound in the groin as he sought concealment in the fireplace of the Haring home. Now, two years later, this same young aide-de-camp, none other than the dashing Major John Andre, sat in his quarters (not far from the spot where Colonel Baylor lay in agony) listening to the building of the scaffold which he was to mount in a few days.

General Washington never forgave Colonel Baylor for his alleged carelessness. Aide-de-camp to Washington in the early days of the war, he distinguished himself at Trenton, receiving the rank of Colonel and presented by Congress with a fine horse, bridle and saddle. The brutality of this attack aroused public indignation to a high pitch and brought many luke-warm patriots to the American cause.



WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS
(Tappan, N.Y.)



THE RED MILLS, Arcola, N.J.
Scene of Battle of Red Mills

BATTLE AT THE RED MILLS

On March 23, 1780, five hundred British and Hessian soldiers commanded by Lieut.-Colonel McPherson entered Hackensack at 3 a.m. The expedition had been planned to destroy the Paramus Camp and the soldiers had been warned not to disturb the inhabitants. The Hessians disobeyed the order and broke into dwellings setting several on fire including the Bergen County Court House which was destroyed.

The Paramus Camp warned by the conflagration sent a force of militia led by Captain John Outwater to Hackensack. They encountered the British force at the Red Mills, Arcola. A withering fire from behind the mills and every available tree routed the advancing columns and the militia followed on their heels until they crossed the Hackensack River over the New Bridge.

NOTES

1 The correct name of the Overpeck Creek is *Awapaugh*. It has erroneously been called *Tantaqua*, which is the name of an Indian chief belonging to the Hackensack tribe.

2 The Tappan and Hackensack Indians were of the same stock--*Lenni-Lenape*. The Lenni-Lenape word, *Hacquoan-sauk*, meaning a hooked shaped, winding river, was pronounced by the Dutch in different ways: *Acking-sack*, *Hackquinsacq*, *Hackingsack* etc. *Tappan* is also a *Lenni-Lenape* word meaning "cold stream."

3 The merchantmen of this period carried small sailing boats, called *yachts* in which they navigated inland streams. De Vries' yacht, the *Squirrel* was used by him when he sailed up the Hackensack River. In 1643 when the Indians sought his home for protection it lay "frozen in the kil," he said, meaning the river.

3a Some writers say Communipaw was the largest settlement. It was probably the most important village from a trading standpoint for the Hackensack Village was nearly two miles in length.

4 The author's map shows the Indian trails, in dotted lines, leading to Pavonia, which was the only crossing to Fort Amsterdam.

5 A Dutch map by Anthony Jacobsz or Jacobs, dated 1621, the original of which is in the collection of Dr. E. B. O'Callaghan. A copy of this map appears in his Colonial History of New York. The river *Achter Kol* is clearly shown.

6 The Charter of June 1629 permitting grants of land 16 miles on one side of a stream and 8 miles on both sides deterred the growth of the Colony, as the patroon reaped most of the rewards of his tenant's labor. *Squatters* invaded these grants without fear of detection and undisturbed by the natives. In 1639 the Company amended its charter and banned all further grants of the size originally set forth, thereby permitting the settlement of smaller tracts known as plantations or lesser patroonships.

7 New Amsterdam is described in the Journal of New Netherland as follows:

“A hundred plantations which in two or three years would become regular bouweries. For after Tobacco was out of the ground Corn was planted there without ploughing. In winter men were busy preparing new lands. Five English Colonies which by charter had settled under us on equal terms as the others. Each of these was in appearance not less than a hundred families strong, *exclusive* of the Colonies of Rensselaers which is prospering with that of *Myndert Myndertz* and Cornelis Melyn who began first.” (italics mine)

8 It is significant that the Colony of Myndert Myndertz is recorded as prospering with the most important colony in the New Netherland to wit: *Rensselaerwick*. In fact more emphasis is placed on the importance of the Vander Horst colony than that of Michael Pauw.

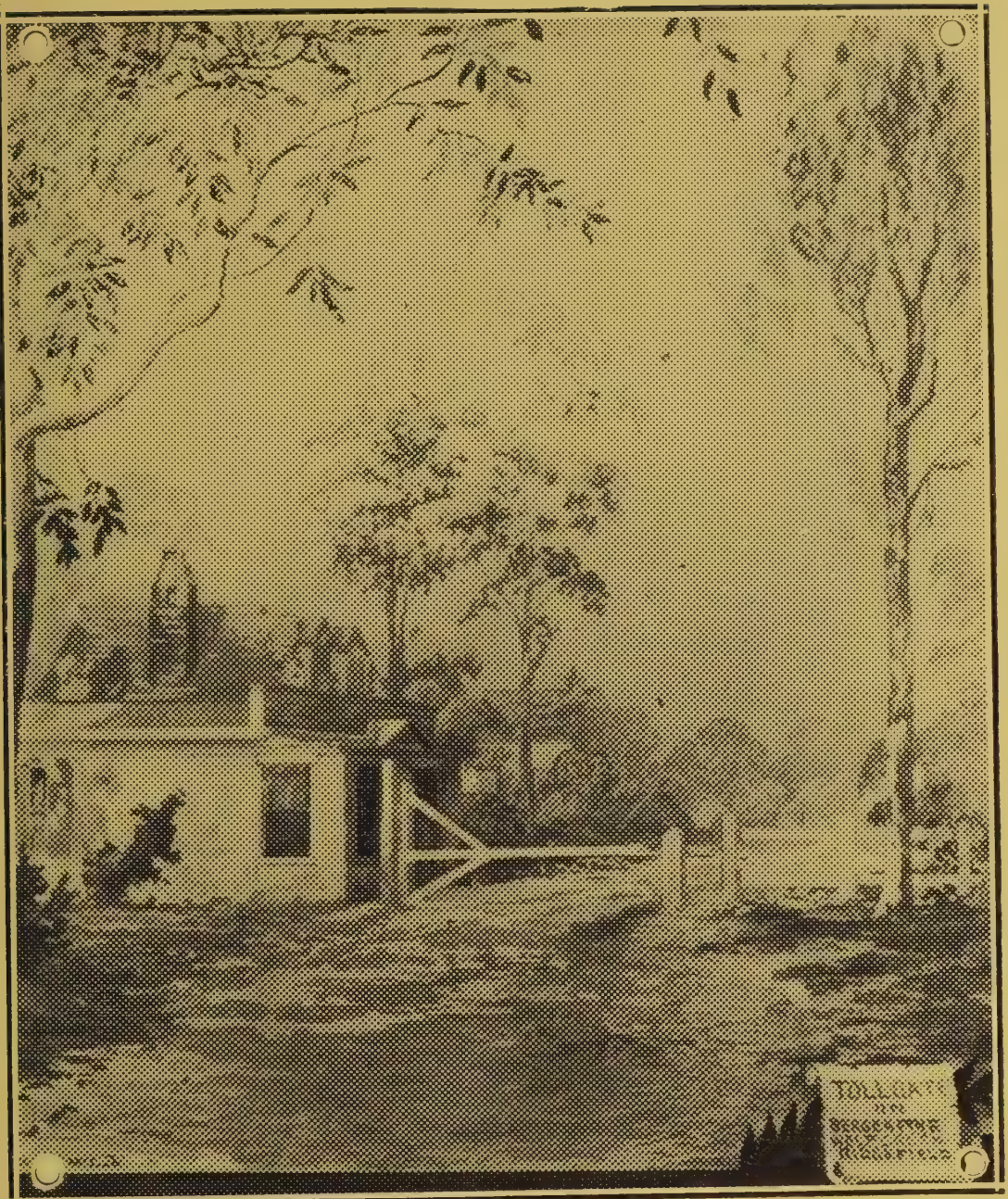
9 History of Bergen County by Hon. James N. Van Valen.

9a Court Proceedings--Cornelis Melyn against Johannes Winkelman, Agent of Baron Nederhorst. About Certain Rights on Staten Island June 26 1642.

“Cornelis Melyn plaintiff agent against Johannes Winkelman, defendant, The plaintiff demands by virtue of a contract made with the Lord of Nederhorst at Amsterdam that the defendant show his authority for coming last winter to him on Staten Island with his people and cattle stating that he came to fulfill the contract, a copy of which he has received; and why he left again and established another colony behind the Col, without asking advice as bound to do so by the contract.

The defendant answers that he had come to this country by order of Meyndert Meyndertsen, whose servant he is and for whom he has established a colony behind the Col as directed and by virtue of the patent granted to his master and by the Lords-Directors and exhibited to the Honorable Director here.” Colonial Documents-Fernow Vol. XIII, p. 9

10 Address of Hon. William M. Johnson July 6, 1910, at laying of cornerstone of the new Bergen County Court House.



TOLL GATE - WOLF CREEK
RIDGEFIELD, NEW JERSEY
Hackensack - Hoboken Turnpike

The Hackensack - Hoboken plank road was built in 1804. There were three toll gates, one in Hackensack, the one shown here and one at Fairview. They were in operation for 111 years, being abolished in 1915.

The toll rates were as follows;

1	Horse Wagon	. . .	5c
1	“ Carriage	. . .	5c
1	“ Cart	. . .	5c
1	“ Sleigh	. . .	5c
2	“ Wagon	. . .	10c
2	“ Carriage	. . .	10c
2	“ Cart	. . .	10c
2	“ Sleigh	. . .	10c
Additional Horse or			
Mule with or without			
	rider	4c
	Neat-Cattle	2c

In this address, Senator Johnson, among other things, said:

“This is indeed historic grounds. More than 250 years ago a hardy group of Dutch pioneers pushed their way into the wilderness and shared with the Indians a home in this pleasant valley. On the southerly bank of the creek near Hudson Street, within sight of the spot whereon we are standing, tradition assigns the first dwelling house in Hackensack.”

10a The importance of this gift lies in the fact that Oratam conveyed to Mrs. Kierstede land actually occupied by and on which the village of his people was located.

11 Voyages of de Vries, page 14. Introduction by translator.

12 On August 20, 1641, one Cornelis Melyn arrived in the ship, *Eyckenboom* (Oak Tree) and claimed ownership of Staten Island, saying that it belonged to him and Heer Vander Horst. De Vries disputed Melyn's claim but having established himself in *Vriesendaal* consented to Melyn's occupying 12 to 14 *morgens* (24 to 28 acres) of land “without abridging my rights as he intended to distill brandy and make goats leather.” De Vries, p. 146

13 An old tradition of the Demarest families of New Bridge.

14 “Then I spoke again to Governor William Kieft: ‘Stop this work; you wish to break the mouths of the Indians, but you will also murder our own nation, for there are none of the farmers who are aware of it. My own dwelling, my people, cattle, corn and tobacco will be lost.’ He answered me, assuring me that there would be no danger; that some soldiers should go to my house to protect it.” De Vries, page 168

15 “As soon as the Indians understood that the Swannekens had so treated them, all the men whom they could surprise on the farm lands, they killed; but we have never heard that they ever permitted women or children to be killed. They burned all the houses, farms, barns, grain, haystacks and destroyed everything they could get hold of. So there was an open destructive war begun. They also burnt my farm, cattle, corn, barn, tobacco-house and all the tobacco. My people saved themselves in the house where I live, which was made with embrasures, through which

they defended themselves. Whilst my people were in this state of alarm, the Indian whom I had aided to escape from the Fort came there and told the other Indians that I was a good chief, that I had helped him out of the fort, and that the killing of the Indians took place contrary to my wish. Then they all cried out together to my people that they would not shoot them . . . they all went away and left my house unbeseiged." De Vries, page 171

16 DECLARATION OF SOME SOLDIERS RESPECTING THE ATTACK ON "THE COLONY BEHIND THE COL." By the Indians.

"Before me, Cornelis van Tienhoven, Secretary in New Netherland for the Priv. W.I. Company, appeared Jan Warrensen, 20 years old, and Hans Nelisen, 30 years old, both soldiers in the service of said Company, who at the request of Mr. Johannes Winkelman and Cornelis Jansen Coelen, attest, testify and declare in place and with promise of a solemn oath if needs be and thereto requested, that it is true and truthful, that they, the affiants, were commanded by the Honble Director William Kieft to defend the Colony 'behind the Col' their strength being five soldiers; that a very fierce attack was made on the house by the savages in the night between the 17th and 18th of September. We, the affiants, numbering five soldiers, five boys and a man belonging to the Colony defended ourselves, until the savages had fired the house, in which we were obliged to defend ourselves, over our heads, then we had to leave the house on account of the heat and we barely succeeded in saving ourselves in a canoe, bringing with us of all the property there, only our arms. All of which they declare to be true, offering to confirm it by their oath.

Done the 30th October 1643 at Fort Amsterdam in New Netherland.

This is the mark W of Jan Warrensen
Hans Nielissen

In presence

(*Colonial Documents*) Cornelis van Tienhoven, Secry."

17 The term Old Hackensack came into use subsequent to



THE BRINKERHOFF HOMESTEAD
Ridgefield Park, New Jersey Erected 1685

THE BRINKERHOFF HOMESTEAD

Henry Jorisse Brinkerhoff was a delegate from Flatbush to the convention of Dutch Towns which met at New Amsterdam July 6th, 1663, and in 1665 he represented Hempstead in the first Assembly.

On May 30, 1677, he purchased 47 *morgens* (94 acres) of land from Claes Jansen, the grantee of Michael Pauw. In 1683 he was one of the six Tax Commissioners of Bergen County. On June 17, 1685, he purchased a large tract of land between the Overpeck Creek and Hackensack River. He erected his home on the easterly bank of the river in what is now Ridgefield Park, being the first permanent settler of that section. He and his wife head the list of members of the congregation of the Church on the Green in Hackensack compiled by the Rev. Peter Taschemaker in 1686.

1681. The property acquired by Henry Jorisse Brinkerhoff in 1685 in what is now Ridgefield Park is described *Hackensack Neck* in his deed. In 1688 Colonel Jacobus van Courtlandt acquired 2120 acres on the east side of the Hackensack River adjoining the Demarest Patent which was called *Hackensack Precinct* or District. The township of Hackensack had not yet been created. On the west side of the Hackensack River we find the Village of *Ackensack* duly inscribed on the title page of the "Minutes of the Consistory of Ackensack" organized in 1686.

Obviously both sides of the river from the junction of the Overpeck Creek and the Hackensack to Cole's Brook was known as Hackensack.

18 When the settlers who built their stockaded village on Jersey City Heights gazed over the great expanse of meadow land below them, stretching to the west, they were reminded of their home village Bergen Op Zoom, and called their new home Bergen, which later with the surrounding plantations, became Bergen County.

19 The word Teaneck, at one time spelled *Tee Neck*, is of Dutch origin, meaning *willow neck*, a neck of land where willows grow.

20 Error in manuscript. It was Andrew Engle, progenitor of the Engle family, who settled in Bergen County in 1779.

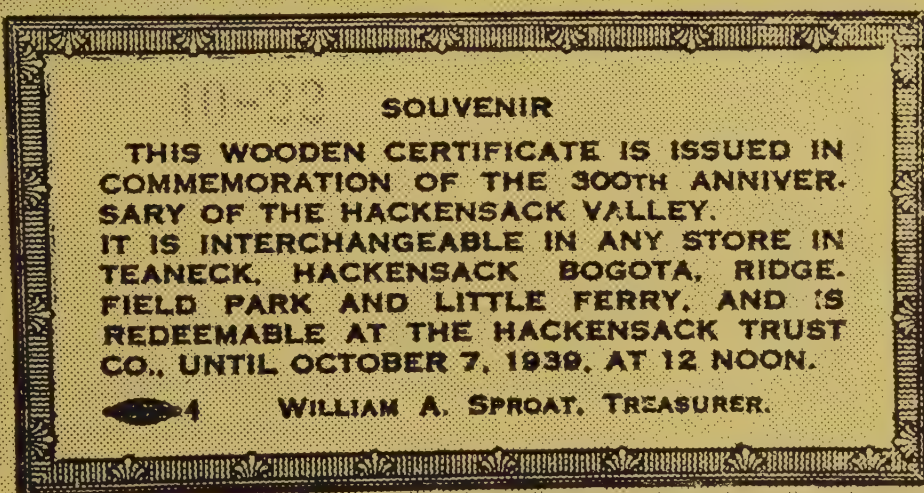
21 William Walter Phelps was born in the village of Dunaff, Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, the summer home of his parents, on August 24, 1839. He grew into manhood under the careful guidance of wealthy parents. Educated at Yale and Columbia Law School, upon his admission to the New York Bar, he soon became a leading member of the American Bar. In 1865 he purchased the old Garrit Brinkerhoff Homestead (now the site of Teaneck's Municipal Building), which he transformed into a stately, picturesque home, naming it *Teaneck Grange*. His estate embraced the present Township of Teaneck and he defrayed the cost of some 30 miles of roads. Cedar Lane alone cost him \$35,000. He also bore one half of the cost of the Railroad Station. Space will not permit a recitation of his many bene-

factions, other than to state that during his residence in Teaneck up to the time of his death in 1894 he planted 500,000 trees in the area owned by him. Between 1872 and 1880 he served several terms in Congress; in 1881 he was appointed Minister to Austria; in 1889 President Harrison appointed him on the Samoan Commission, where his work won the praise of the great Bismark and resulted in his appointment as Minister to Germany. In 1893 he resigned due to the illness from which he never recovered. Retiring from active life he accepted Governor 'Werts' appointment to the Court of Errors and Appeals. This was New Jersey's last tribute to its distinguished adopted son. Today few in this fast growing municipality of Teaneck know that he ever lived. *Sic transit gloria mundi!*

22 Light Horse Harry Lee's expedition against Paulus Hook (Jersey City) on August 19, 1779, is considered one of the most spectacular exploits of the war, rivalling that of Wayne's attack on Stony Point. Warmly praised by Washington and Lafayette, Major Lee also received the thanks of Congress and a gold medal. The sum of \$15,000 was directed to be distributed among the non-commissioned officers and men numbering some 150. The gallant Captain Allen McLane, who, with his 4th troop led the way, having for several weeks reconnoitered the enemy's position and felled trees across all roads which the enemy might use to cut off their retreat, in his diary describes the attack against the British redoubt, as follows: "Stormed them without more loss than two men killed and five wounded. We killed about fifty, took 150 prisoners--nine officers--and then retired to the New Bridge the distance of 22 miles."

THE HACKENSACK VALLEY TERCENTENNARY CELEBRATION

Upon completion of the manuscript *Three Hundred Years*, Mr. Koehler conceived the idea of celebrating the Tercentenary of the Hackensack Valley. Accordingly in February 1939, at his request, Mayor Foschini of Hackensack, Mayor Votee of Teaneck, Mayor Lowe of Ridgefield Park, Mayor Zabransky of Little Ferry and Mayor Ferber of River Edge appointed representatives to act on their respective committees.



FACSIMILE OF WOODEN MONEY

Issued in commemoration of the Tercentenary Celebration
September 30th to October 7th, 1939

TERCENTENARY COMMITTEES

HONORARY COMMITTEE

John Borg, Chairman

John D. Lynn	Martin Ferber
Paul Foschini	J. Parnell Thomas
Milton G. Votee	Frank C. Osmer, Jr.
Jos. Zabransky	Winant Van Winkle
Herbert I. Lowe	Nicholas A. Kuiken

Jacob W. Binder

GENERAL COMMITTEE

Francis C. Koehler, Chairman
Frank A. Morrison, Vice-Chairman
David D. Dodds, Secretary
William A. Sproat, Treasurer
Thomas N. Prime, Program
Edward F. Walsh, Colonial Ball
A. R. Granito, Chamber of Commerce
Kenneth Wallace, Kiddie Parade
Mrs. F. B. Ross, Kiddie Parade
Janet Sweet, Publicity
Edward C. Dorsett, Grand Parade
Harry Schmale, Entertainment

MUNICIPAL CHAIRMEN

Hackensack	Russel L. Binder
Teaneck	Judge Leland F. Ferry
Ridgefield Park	Frank A. Morrison
River Edge	J. Pell Zabriskie
Little Ferry	Edward P. Kinchley
Oradell	Hiram Blauvelt

Acknowledgement is hereby made to the splendid support and sincere cooperation of the Hon. John Borg, Publisher of the Bergen Evening Record and Member of the New York Port Authority, which contributed so largely to the success of the celebration.

